

DIARY OF
WILLIAM A. ALFONTE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL, INFANTRY
U.S. ARMY

MAY 1917 THROUGH OCTOBER 1918

SIGNAL OFFICER

YANKEE DIVISION

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***CONFIDENTIAL**

Fort Sam Houston, Texas,
May 24, 1917.

Commanding General,
Third Infantry Division,
Douglas, Arizona.

Number two fifty seven period Following received from War Department repeated for your information and guidance quote Sixteenth Infantry, Eighteenth Infantry, Twenty-sixth Infantry and Twenty-eighth Infantry, Headquarters and four motor truck companies, personnel only; two motor truck machine shops with personnel complete; outpost from 1st Battalion Signal Corps from First Battalion Signal Corps; Ambulance Company Number Six motor; Field Hospital Number Six motor, designated for early foreign service Equipment C. Considerable transfer of enlisted personnel or assignment of recruits will be necessary for Infantry organization. Letter mailed you May twenty-third giving details of organization and supply of equipment.

Organization three battalions to a regiment, each battalion organized three companies of Infantry and one Machine Gun Company.

Infantry companies AS FOLLOWS: First sergeant one; Mess Sergeant one; Supply Sergeant one; Sergeants eight; Corporals seventeen; machinists two; cooks three, buglers two, privates first class and privates one hundred sixty five, total enlisted 200.

Machine gun company: First sergeant one; mess sergeant one; supply sergeant one; stable sergeant one; sergeants ten, corporals fourteen, horseshoer one, mechanics three, saddler one, cooks two; buglers two, privates first class and privates one hundred ten; total one forty seven.

Total enlisted of the regiment, including headquarters and supply company not here given, 2631.

Letter May 23d modified as follows: All men must complete personal equipment before leaving border, equipment being taken away from other organizations if necessary. These preparations must be completed by June first Unquote

By command of, etc;

BUNDY*

This assembly of officers marked the close of a peaceful epoch in the life of the Regiment and at the same time started the activity of the Regiment for participation in the World War.

(COPY)

368BA 196 GWT

P Ft Sam Houston, Texas 2:45 P.M. May 27th, 1917
Commanding Officer Eighteenth Infy., Douglas, Ariz.

The department quartermaster has been directed to arrange the necessary transportation and ship immediately care depot Q.M. New York your Regiment Supply Company and Equipment C Pertaining to that since organization only period the regimental train of twenty nine essert wagons knocked down one hundred twenty mules draft and all other authorized animals pertaining to regiment public and private as prescribed in the new table of organizations will accompany supply company period ambulance buckboards and water wagons will not be taken all surplus animals and transportations will be turned in to Quartermaster Douglas reporting by wire to this office the number so disposed of period Fifteen stock cars five box one baggage and one tourist sleeper will be placed at el paso tuesday May twenty ninth this train will move immediately as a fast special to Jersey City New Jersey via El Paso and Southwestern Rock Island Chicago Nickel Plate Buffalo Leighvalley Wilkesbarre Jersey Central to Jersey City Period Bills of lading should provide for delivery Central Stock Yards Jersey City and Lighterage delivery Period Consign cars depot Q.M. New York City Advise department quartermaster Southern Dept. by wire time of departure weight and measurements of baggage acknowledge HXOMH -Bundy--- 315 P.M.

Ding
TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER,
Supply Company 18th Infantry.

Fort Sam Houston, Texas, 1:40 PM May 30
Q.M. Douglas

You are directed to forward Supply Company 18th Infantry and all transportation and animals as heretofore arranged May 31 provided they are fully equipped in accordance with questions from this office period. June first has been designated as date of departure for 18th Inf to Hoboken, Employ EP & SW Santa Rosa, R.I. Chicago and Erie to Hoboken. Call on R.R. participating for necessary freight equipment. Pullman equipment will be furnished from this office This organization will be forwarded in six train sections and 2 baggage cars for kitchen purposes will be furnished for each train section in this case only. Advise strength departure, each train section.

Ackl
Rogers
1:11 P.M.

Fort Sam Houston, Texas, 1:40 P.M. May 30
S. M. Lloyd.

You are directed to forward Supply Company 182
Infantry and all transportation and animals
as heretofore arranged, May 31 provided
they are fully equipped in accordance with
questions from this office period. June
first has been designated as date of
departure for 18th Inf to Hoboken,
Employ E P & SN Santa Rosa, R.I.
Chicago and line to Hoboken, call
on R.R. participating for necessary
freight equipment. Pullman Equip
will be furnished from this office
This organization will be forwarded
in six train sections and 2 baggage
cars for kitchen purposes will
be furnished for each train section
in this case only, advise strength
departure, each train section.

Ack

Rogers

1:11 P.M.

Left Douglas 2:48 PM May 31/17.

Arrived Carrizo 10:11 AM. Stock unloaded, watered & fed. Left Carrizo 5:45 PM.

1 Officer

112 Enlisted,- 2 HqCo. 2 Hosp - 2 Ordnance

1 Civilian Blacksmith, Diggs

22 cars of animals - 86 horses, 403 mules

4 cars of wagons, 1 car water wagons

2 cars of forage, 1 car of tentage & freight.

Picked up a car of wagons and harness at Tucumcari 4:45 AM June 2 from Depot Q.M.E.R.

Arrived in Pratt, Kansas, 7 PM. Left 1 AM. Pens for only about 12 cars, 2 loading shoots. Railroad officials courteous and obliging.

June 3d

Did not unload, accommodations of stock yards not sufficient, private yards in St Joe charges 25 cents for each animal.

June 4

Arrived in Elday, Iowa, 8:15 AM. Unloaded by 10:30 AM, 1 pen for each car. Yards old and delapidated. Rained cats & dogs from 11 AM to 1 PM. Loaded from 2:30 to 4:30.

June 5th

Bellevue, Ohio unloaded 7 to 9 PM. Loaded 1 AM to 4 AM. Pens better suited for pigs. Old and muddy, shoots bad for horses and mules, plenty of shoots but only 1 car will spot at a time. A passenger agent accompanied us over the Nickel Plate to assure good service. Passenger trains were sidetracked for us and all delays of over 15 minutes had to be reported to the Supt.

June 7th

2:30 PM arrived at Central Union Stock Yards. Animals unloaded by stockyard men. Camp pitched.

June 8th

Freight loaded on lighters and taken to boats.

June 9th

1 public horse died.

June 10th

2 public horses died.

June 11th

Private horse of Capt Bessell died.

June 16

Broke camp J.C. & boarded USCG Dakotan at Hoboken

June 17

Sailed from Hoboken

June 9th 1917

1:30 PM Sgt Chase & 30 men left camp for Central Union Stock Yards Dock enroute to Steamboat H.S. Mallory. 2 horses died thought to have been poisoned.

June 10th

1 horse died. Informed that 18th & 25th will be loaded by midnight. Rumored that there was a naval battle May 4th and we lost several boats. Brooklyn Navy Yard full of wounded sailors. Also rumored that Transport Kilpatrick loaded with troops was torpedoed and sunk. We expect to load the 12th. Sentry at stock yard caught a man with dynamite.

June 11th

Horse of Capt Bessel died. Went to Army Building & Governors Island.

June 12th

Received 3 horses from Mr Desmond, Central Union Stock Yards on receipt to replace the 3 that died. Received shoes and slickers from Depot Q.M. No information as to when we will leave.

June 13th

Nothing new. Went to the city, saw Billie Baker, arranged to trade some animals.

June 14th

Poured down rain after 2 PM. Camp flooded and everything soaked. We are to load Saturday morning. Lightning fired an oil tank near camp.

June 15th

Received orders to load tomorrow, 16th at 11 AM. Inspector General and Veterinary inspected stock yards.

June 16th

Broke camp and loaded men and property on the Government boat Canby at 10:38 AM. First barge of animals arrived and unloading began at 4:03 PM. Finished unloading second barge at 10:10 PM 796 Mules, 77 public horses, 10 private horses.

June 17th

Tug towed us out of slip at 4 AM. We anchored off Tompkinsville at 5:07 AM. Left anchorage at 7: AM with whole convoy. Sunday a most beautiful day. About 2:30 PM a sailor accidentally discharged the port aft gun causing consternation to my recruits and mules. Ships of convoy maneuvered & zigzagged to outwit submarines. All men aboard assigned to life boats and precautions taken for emergencies.

June 18th

Monday, weather clear warm. Had fire drill & abandon ship drill. Discovered that Commander Shackford and I were in the same fight in Samar in 1901 on Gandara River. Quite a coincidence.

June 19th

Tuesday, weather, passing clouds light wind. Cruiser St Louis fired 10 shots at supposed periscope but it was only a floating spar. This was at 6:30 AM. Clouded up and sprinkled a poco.

Wednesday June 20

Overcast and drizzling, some white caps. Fire & abandon ship drill.

Thursday June 21

Beautiful day. Met 2 sailing vessels and 1 steamer but they were quite a distance from us. Had target practice with our port guns. New moon.

Friday June 22

Light breeze, few white caps. Target practice with starboard guns and Colts Automatic. Passed 1 sailing vessel. The destroyer Flusser returned to New York.

Saturday June 23

Inspection under arms. Light breeze, beautiful day. Met French steamer. Gun practice by St Louis.

June 24 Sunday

Most beautiful day. Zigzagged all day. Passed sail late in the evening.

June 25 Monday

The course was changed until we were going southwest, changed back to N.E. at 8:30 AM. 3 destroyers have gone off in search of our convoy or to look for the enemy. Rumored that a message to the convoy commander caused the change of directions and sending of destroyers off. Passed two steamers on the starboard horizon at 7:30. Met Naval supply boat Mariner at 10 AM. She supplied the destroyers with oil and then left us. Met steamer at 4:30 PM on our starboard 6 miles off our course.

Tuesday June 26

Very foggy. Submarine scare at 3:30, one of the lookouts thought he saw a periscope. General quarters was sounded but it turned out to be a false alarm.

Wednesday, June 27

Foggy & overcast. Steamer on our port going same direction. One destroyer has left us. Cold. Destroyer Terry returned to N.Y.

Thursday, June 28

Cool, clear. Great excitement at 10:20 submarine sighted by St Louis, several shots fired. Formation broken up. Later a message from the Anunen (?) informed us that "Some submarines were sighted and 2 torpedoes fired at the Kanawlia(?)." During the height of the excitement a dark bird on the water on our port beam very closely resembled a periscope and the boat was headed away from it at full speed. I, however, watched it and saw it fly otherwise there would have been no convincing Cmdr Shackford that it was not a periscope. Just as the excitement started I had reported smoke on the starboard bow. The Cmdr was glad to report this to the Hancock as it had not yet been reported, this smoke was not again sighted for 50 minutes. Later a steamer came into view and crossed our bow going in a northeast direction. She was in sight until late in the afternoon. At 3:15 smoke was seen on our port & starboard bows and soon the escort of 6 destroyers we were expecting hove into sight. We heard from them that the 1st Expedition landed somewhere in France without any loss.

June 29 Fri

About 1AM the Occident sounded her siren whistle 6 times - signal for submarine - It wakened me but as I did not hear any excitement I thought (I) was dreaming and went back to sleep. The boats all scattered on the signal. We sighted steamers during the day but no other excitement. Overcast.

June 30 Sat

Stood watch on starboard side of bridge from 4 AM to 8 PM. Cmdr Shackford took the port side. 2 General Quarters were sounded while I was at breakfast. The first was a whale but reports point to the second being on account of a submarine sighted heading for the Luckenback. Will try to verify this when I get to port. Saw 4 steamers between 4 AM and 8 AM and one at 5 PM. Fine weather but cold wind. Two French Gunboats joined or met us at 12:30 PM and escorted us in. They had a radio in the evening that a German submarine was sighted at Belle Sole at 5 PM headed in our direction and we were warned to lookout carefully as our time of meeting it should have been 2 AM. Those who knew about it slept with their clothes on. I did not know it and as there was no alarm I was in luck. Went to bed at 8:30 good and tired.

Sun July 1

Went on watch at 4 AM with Cmdr Shackford. One of the torpedo boats in the lead fired on something at 5:20 and the alarm was given for General Quarters. It was a false alarm. The St Louis opened fire at 7:30 with explosive shell and again General Quarters was sounded and it was a false alarm. The ship's officers are having quite a bit of fun with the Navy officers over all this fish fighting. Sighted land at 12:45 PM. Small islands off the west French coast. Passed by Bel Isle about 3 PM. There are many German prisoners kept on this island and the old Dutch windmill is in evidence. We anchored at 6:52 PM in the roads about 30 miles from our destination ???

Monday July 2

Pulled up anchor at 9 AM and moved up the bay and anchored opposite Saint Nazarre. The Hancock & Luckenback preceded us into the lock. Finished letter to Jo & Mother. The Havana and Saratoga were pulling out for N.Y. as we came in. We docked at 5:30 & started unloading animals at 7 PM. Finished at 2:30 AM and by the time we got back to the boat it was after 3 AM. I went to the yards with the first bunch of 200 and the natives were about as interested in us as about seeing the troops I guess.

Tues July 3rd

Unloaded company property. Walked out to the camp. Stopped at remount station to see the animals. Found things in my part of the regiment needed my attention. Went back to the boat and loaded on the Co and proceeded to camp. The officers of the regiment called on Bundy & Sibert. Had letters from Jo & Mother. Glad to get (home?). Cabled Jo.

Wed July 4th

A holiday, however I worked all day getting a line on things. Had a letter from Mike and Jim. Issued clothing. Ball game _____ vs _____. Saw my first dirigible. It flew over camp.

July 5th

Went to town looking for my lost property but could not locate any. Cannot get wagons for 2 or 3 days yet. Animals are getting the Mallein test. Issued clothing.

6 July Fri

Beautiful day. Daylight until about 11 PM. Issued clothing and ordnance. Made another trip to town to find out about wagons etc. Unsatisfactory.

7 Sat July

Regimental inspection. Supply Co did not stand it. Rained. Unloaded a few things off the boat. Issued clothing and ordnance.

8 July Sun

Unloaded boat. Cleared boat. Issued clothing & ordnance. Maj _____ & _____ left for _____ to arrange for billeting of troops. Sgt Johnson, Co D shot himself accidentally. Had dinner with By & D Tammeny. Wrote to Jo.

9 Mon July

Orders received for movement the 13th. As it is Friday and the 13th we are sure in luck. Issued clothing & ordnance. I sure am disgusted with the slowness of unloading, setting up etc. Ration returns submitted to include July 27th, 2 days of which are travel, also 2 days reserve.

10 July Tuesday

Unloading boat and setting up wagons. Rushed from daylight to dark. Order to move Friday received and all transportation must be set up and loaded on the train with a full load. Hear that the Dakotan will leave for the States Friday. Payday. Troops paid in French money. Beautiful day.

11 July Wed

Finished setting up wagons - left for. Went down to see first trains leave. Fitted up harness and finished picking out mules. Certainly feel like I was on a vacation now that the wagons are up. Wrote to Jo. Beautiful day.

12 July Thurs

Beautiful day. Went to D.Q.M. to pay for clothing. Pryans and Boettger drunk, DeMeyer absent. Nillam drew rations for 10 days and 2 travel & reserve. Sent property to D.Q.M. cots, trunk lockers, bed sacks. P & D just stopped in on the way from town. They had had something to drink.

13 July

Rode to town on my horse to see the loading of the train.

14th July Sat

Regiment moved in 5 trains. As luck would have it there was no rain. I was in command of the last train. We were loaded 1 hour ahead of time. Wheat is ripe and should be cut, lots of hay & gardens.

Sunday July 15

Enroute through France. Train stopped for coffee at Ville la France. The wife of the mayor met the train and gave me a large bouquet. It was to have been an arm full but a storm the night before had broken them all. She also gave us a loaf of bread, boiled eggs and cheese. A beautiful day and the beautiful country through which we passed. All buildings are stone and are very unique in form. Country very well tilled and cared for. Inhabitants turned out in large numbers and gave flowers, cigarettes & cherries to the troops. Red Cross nurses met the train at several stations and distributed coffee and tea. One very good looking one and I decided that I would get shot in the foot and come back for her to take care of me. Stopped for coffee and to water animals at ____ at 7:30 PM left at 8 PM. Large quantities of barbed wire stored in the freight yards here. Train passed with cars of large Guns, carriages painted various colors to render them more like the surroundings. Have passed several such trains today but none of such large calibre.

____ 16 July Monday

Beautiful day. Passed through beautiful country but not so many inhabitants as yesterday. Country well cared for & cultivated. People very enthusiastic in towns we pass through and showering us with flowers. Arrived in at (sic) 6:30 PM. Unloaded - many orders & admonitions from Kobbe. Do not like the looks of the corral site. Storeroom too small. Found my quarters at 10 o'clock. A very old lady, small girl about 10 and one 18 or thereabouts. She has one hand bundled up. Must find out what is the matter with it. Perhaps it is a wound. Only a month ago today I loaded on the animals at Hoboken and less than 2 months since we received the orders.

17 July Tuesday

Drizzled part of the day. Straightened out the store barns, offices and billets - and moved my corral to the other side of town, opened up a blacksmith shop. The girl in the house gave us a French lesson. Went to Div Hdqrs. 2 letters from Jo.

18 July Wed

Drizzled. Sent to Div Hdqrs for forage. Sent 2 trains to G Co. at Boudiguecourt. Dug a grave for Nolan of Co. D who drowned in the corral.

19th July Thurs

Drizzled. Cut wood, rode out to the forest. Sent to the Div for bread. Gave Hosp 4 horses, Hdqrs 6, M. G. Cos 1 each. Wrote to Jo.

20 July Friday

Went to Gondrecourt. Cut wood. Part of the officers went to see French firing problems. Beautiful day. 5 French airplanes passed over going toward the front. Beautiful day.

21 July Sat

Went to ____ to witness the French system of training it was certainly interesting and exciting and the earnestness with which they all enter into it wins ones admirations. The exhibitions included a demonstration of actual trench methods with the use of actual grenades of the various kinds. Mule died. Beautiful day. Col McAndrew, Maxey & Morrow went to Paris to school.

22 Jul Sun

Div Comdr inspected troops and billets. Saw an airplane fight at quite a distance it lasted for more than 2 hours, the burst of the shells was plainly visible and at times the machines could also be seen. German machine passed over at great height. Beautiful day. Wrote to mother.

23 July Mon.

Hauled forage. Rode my horse to Gondrecourt. Had 2 letters from Jo. Beautiful day.

24 July

Bought chocolate and tobacco from French comsy. Received 4 cars of forage. Beautiful day.

25 July

Had a card from Louiza & a statement from Turley. E Co. man blew his arm off fooling with a grenade picked up on our training ground. Overcast.

26 July

Received 108 machine rifles, French design for lettered companies, issued them. Rode out to visit wood cutters, ate raspberries, saw signs of deer. Overcast.

27 July

Located incenerators and bath house. 5 cars of oats received. German aeroplane with 3 French machines in pursuit passed over town, I missed seeing them. Dal was in for awhile. Two doctors were up to see about a water wagon for use while the water system at hospital is being repaired. Beautiful weather.

28 July Sat

Regimental inspection & review. Transportation not out, I attended a Regt Comdrs staff. Moving pictures taken. Issued rations. Y.M.C.A. drew store tent for temporary use. Fine day. Wrote to Jo.

Sunday 29 July

Beautiful day. Slept most of the day. Mail received from the States. Letter from Jo. Welsch went to Neufchateau on a picnic.

Monday 30 July

1 Hotchkiss received, issued to Co M. Drew forage. Winters took me to Bar-le-Duc to get comsy savings. Overcast.

Tue July 31

Muster by Company. Rained all afternoon. Ammunition received for heavy M.Gs. Overcast.

Wed Aug 1

Sick all night. Vomiting & diarrhea, in bed most of the day. Ladies of the house very insistent that I eat or drink something. Drew hay. Letter from Jo written from Helens. Gen Pershing & staff took a look through town. 10 Hotchkiss guns received, issued to D Co.

Thur 2 Aug

Overcast. Weddle blew the top of his head off in Co. billet, had been drinking the night before. Went to cemetery and Gondrecourt en Cheval, 4 Hotchkiss guns and ammunition received, issued to Co. H.

3 Aug Friday

Rained all day. Weddle buried. 1800 helmets received, 3 cars of oats received. The Col, Doster, Brewer, Duke and Leonoir went to Paris for a few days on business. Drew 1800 helmets. 1 for Maj Rainy.

4 Aug Sat

Went to Gondrecourt to see Ordnance Officer. Col. Chetano informed me that I was to accompany him to the front on a tour of inspections and study of supply. To leave tomorrow. Very pleasing news. Moved Ord storeroom. Issued helmets. Drew gas mask for myself. Wrote to Jo.

5 Aug

Went to Gondrecourt. Left Houdelaincourt at 2:18 with Col. Chetano, Capt Clark and Mr Montgomery (interpreter) to study the French methods of supply at the front. Automobile. Arrived at Bar-le-Duc at 3:18 - left at 3:30 for Souilly. Passed a Batt of Inf just out of Bar-le-Duc going toward the front. At Souilly at 4:25 the Col. reported to the Chief of Staff of the 2nd Army Corps to find out where we were to go and found that it was to the east of Verdun to Rarecourt, Hdqrs of the 47th Division, Gen D'Euophreville. Saw some guns here that had been disabled by shell fire. At 5 pm we passed through and saw our first signs of war or battle. The houses of the towns were torn to pieces by shell fire. Arrived at Rarecourt Div Hdqrs at 5:30 and met all the staff officers and the Gen. He informed us that he had detailed one of his staff 1st Lieut Dawpierre who spoke English quite well to give us all the information he could and that a plan had been laid out which he thought would give us the best insight into their methods. The Col. was assigned to his billet and Clark and I were put up at the officers club the interpreter at a separate billet. We all took our meals at the Generals table at the club and the food was excellent. As the French have only coffee for what we call breakfast they ordered our breakfast the evening before - eggs and coffee or cocoa as we wanted - they serve breakfast at 11:30 and it is a full grown meal and corresponds to our lunch. The General was very pleasant. Artillery firing was very audible all evening and I was awakened about 2:A.M. by very heavy firing which lasted for some time, until after I went back to sleep. We went to the Bureau Hdqrs in the evening to look over maps, etc and saw pictures taken from aeroplane of the sector of the line that we were to visit. They showed distinctly the two lines of trenches and also large craters between thrown up by the explosion of mines, both French and German. The trenches are only a few meters apart, being as close as 18 meters in places. Rainy and cloudy

6 Monday

At 7:30 we left for the R.R. station to see the distribution of the daily supplies to the regimental trains. The meat is usually killed the day before and brought up by truck and when the frozen meat is furnished it comes by train. The meat trucks stop on the right of the road a short distance apart and issue goes on from all of them at the same time. Regt wagons being lined up and waiting their turn. The meat issue is

usually finished by 8:30. At the RR. station the Regt wagons get 1 days supply of forage rations etc and go to the Regt Park and the following morning it is distributed and sent to the various companies. We then went to _____ where the Genil Magasin for that Div is located and saw all the materials for trench construction and protection and different apparatus for combatting the effects of gas. We next visited the 16th Section of the American Red Cross. They use Ford ambulances, one of the drivers had died that morning from a wound received 2 days before. We then went back to Clermont and from the top of a high hill overlooking the town we could see quite distinctly the location of the front line trenches. Quite steady big gun firing was going on in the vicinity of Vauquois Plateau and I saw the burst of shells and heard machine gun firing. Could see _____ which is six meters inside the German lines. Returned for lunch and in the afternoon we went through the Argonne Forest, saw many howitzers here on trucks evidently waiting to be ordered someplace well hidden in the forests. Went to the Division slaughter house and saw the killing of the cattle for the next days issue. Every part of the animal is saved and put to some use. Men who are not considered fit for the fighting are used for this kind of work. Stopped at an aviation park and saw the machines used in patrol work. They are 2 man machines, some with two propellers armed with rapid fire guns 2. Stopped at an artillery repair station. Machinists repair the guns and wheelwrights repair the carriages. Saw one gun where a shell had exploded the ammunition near it and the wheels were burned off, the jacket cracked and the gun warped from the heat. Went to bed early with visions of a big day ahead. Beautiful day.

7 Aug Tuesday

Overcast. Started at 7:30, first went to the regimental park and saw the rations being divided for the various companies. To the ones in the front trenches they were sent in small cars on a track to the regt Hdqrs and the cooking done there. This park was in a wood that offered good screen from observation but not from fire. Dugouts were everywhere for shelter in case of bombardment. The animals looked excellent for care and conditions. We passed on to the Hdqrs of the Regt walking along the track. Hdqrs being located on the reverse slope of a ridge - in a ravine really - officers quarters, kitchens etc were constructed of masonry in this hill and every thing was in the best of condition it was really wonderful to find such excellent conditions at such a short distance from the front. As this was only 900 meters from the front line trenches we took to a communications trench and followed it continuously. From a lookout we saw dirt being thrown from the German trenches. Passed through a tunnel over 300 meters in length connecting the two ridges it was built to give absolute protection if it became necessary to abandon the front line trench. There was a dynamo used for compressing air for ventilation and also for use in planting mines. In the front line trenches the men seemed mostly to be loafing around. Rifles for firing grenades were in position and machine guns at the positions prepared for them. Grenades ready everywhere and men occupying listening posts but everything was quiet and the men consequently taking it easy. We passed one at a time to one of the listening posts only 18 meters from the German trench. There was a deep crater caused by a mine between the trenches and the front of both German and French trenches were a mass of barbed wire & chevaux de frise entanglements. It gave one quite a thrill to look over and realize he was so close to he knew not what. Heard only a few shots while in the front trenches and

they were not close. We were 2 hours in these trenches and it was not long enough to do more than pass forward and back through such a labyrinth. In returning we passed through another tunnel that was 600 meters in length but it opened on the front side of the hill and the narrow gauge RR ran through it. It was used for supplying the front line trenches with food, munitions etc. The Germans knew the location of the exit and shell it quite frequently. Was sorry to leave such an interesting place at least while it was so quiet but it was 12:30 and we still had some things to see before lunch. We went to the Divisions Bath House where the men, when they came in from the front line trenches are taken for bathing and their underclothing is taken from them, disinfected and sent to the laundry further in the rear, clean clothing being given the men. This ended the trip and we returned to Rarecourt and lunch, the Colonel felt that we could not well impose ourselves on the hospitality of our hosts any longer and much to my regret - more so later - we left at 4 P.M. for Verdun. On the road we passed numerous heavy guns and trucks and trucks (sic). There seemed to be an air of getting ready for something. Aircraft, the small fighting machines were thick as flies 50 large hangers in a couple of miles. Arrived at Verdun at 5 P.M. and the Chief of Staff was very pleased to see us. Wanted to stay all night and go to the front line trenches at Douaumont the next day - oh what a chance - the Colonel thought and of course it was too much to drop 4 hungry Americans down on them without warning so he told them he could not do it. oh me. One of the staff officers guided us around Verdun for 2 hours. It is certainly a wreck and the Germans still shell it every few days 55 shells having been dropped in it the day before we arrived. Not a person is there except the soldiers. The Arch Bishops Palace located on top of a hill overlooking most of the town and the Meuse is totally wrecked and the weather is causing the destruction of such as the shell fire left. There was constant firing of artillery all the time and the closest trenches were visible at 1200 yards although the front line was about 11 miles out. We left at 7 P.M. On the return trip, met over 500 trucks between Verdun and Bar-le-Duc all loaded with Infantry. Evidently some action is contemplated very soon. Had supper at Bar-le-Duc soup and Omlet. Left at 9:15 and arrived at Houdelaincourt at 10:45.

8 Aug Wed.

Overcast. Related my experiences to everyone who would listen to me. Found plenty of work. Had three letters from Jo and one from Mother. Horses and mules put in stables. Jeane went for a trip with her father for a couple of weeks.

9 Aug.

Sun and rain. Worked on Ordnance papers all day. Major Drain, Division Ord Officer came out to see me and invited me to dinner Sat night. He wants to have a talk with all the Supply Officers. Called on Pike to tell him about the trip. German air machine looked us over.

10 Aug Friday.

Went to Gondrecourt. All Supply Officers had to report to the Chief of Staff. He wanted to discuss shortage of equipment. Issued clothing. Meeting of Officers at 5 P.M. called. Saw a letter where the Col. had recommended certain officers for increased grade. As it was only 1 grade and most of them would have that anyway on any increase I do not consider that the recommendations are all that might be desired or expected. Heavy firing heard last night.

11 Aug Sat.

Issued clothing, finished incinerator. Went to dinner with Major Drain. Guests were Col. Coe, Chief of Staff, Smith, Inspector, Capt Wilson, Aide _____ Marine Corps Supply Officer and Lieut Pratt, Ord Officer. Had a lovely dinner with a good looking girl waiting table. Had quite a discussion of the supply position with a view to bettering the system. It poured down rain and I was drenched in going but managed to keep fairly dry under a slicker. Meeting of Officers at 5 P.M. Dal was discharged. Heavy firing heard last night.

Sun 12 Aug.

Wrote to Jo. Put in list of shortages. Had Articles of War read. Went for a horse back ride in the afternoon but the horse lost a shoe and I had to return. Beautiful day. 2 mules got away last night and have not yet been found. Received tobacco and cigarettes. German airplane passed over.

13 Aug Mon.

Went to Gondrecourt. Had a long talk with Voris. He has my idea of this war business and that is that we will break the blooming line when we get set. Went to De Mange in the afternoon to the Ord Depot. Band gave a concert in front of my office. Wrote a card to Helen. Issued tobacco and cigarettes to the Companies. Overcast and Rainy.

Tuesday 14 Aug.

Rainy. Finished incinerator. Issued clothing. Jeane came back for a couple of days.

Wed 15 Aug.

Pay Day. Overcast. Lieut Marmon paid the regiment. 200000 Sweet Caporal cigarettes received for issue to the troops. New York Sun presented them. Went to Gondrecourt 16 Aug for conference with Chief of Staff, Supply Officers and Bureau Chiefs on the shortages of equipment. 2 letters from Jo and 1 from Jim. Wrote to Jo. Overcast.

17 Aug Friday

Letters from Jo and Mother. Beautiful day. Col McAndrew promoted to B.G. Daily issue of rations began by the Division Q.M. Not satisfactory today, but it may work out alright later on. Air fight seen by some in direction of front. Bursting of shells etc.

18 Aug Sat.

Received lumber for latrines. Daily issue of rations failed again today. Col and others left for front. Boche plane looked us over. Received covers and ammunition carriers. Rode out to the woods. Horse was feeling good and kept me busy. Beautiful day.

19 Aug Sun.

Had inspection of Co and transportation. Gen Pershing was to have inspected billets with Gen Petain but did not show up. Co. D M.G. fired on a French airplane thinking it was a German. Had to draw rations for 2 days to straighten out the mix up of the daily issue. It does not seem to work. Wrote to Jo. Beautiful day.

20 Aug Mon.

Wrote to Mother. Had a letter from Jo. Went to Gondrecourt to the Div Q.M. Saw Voris and rode out to Menaucort with him and Bessell. Beautiful Day. Built some latrine covers.

21 Aug Tues.

Beautiful day. The Co. took the Gas test at DeMange. Vet Clark reported for duty with regt.

22 Aug Wed.

Beautiful day. Went to Gondrecourt. Rode out to woods and Bonneville (Bonnet) in P.M. Received lumber for feed boxes. Received remainder of helmets. Weelis, Pike and Lesnoir were in.

A lady of questionable reputation was very solicitous of my welfare when she knew I was soaking wet. Wanted me to change clothes and finally brought me out a cup of steaming hot coffee and that was really very nice of her be she good or bad.

23 Aug Thursday.

Fire in one of the animal billets about 11 P.M. last night. Looked like the whole town would burn but the stone walls and tile roofs were a great assistance and it was finally under control. One of the largest houses in town was destroyed and two badly damaged. Had 7 mules burned to death, 1 badly burned and 1 badly cut that escaped. I ruined a blouse by getting soaked with water and muck. Did not get to bed again until 4 A.M. Went to Gondrecourt to see Div QM. Saw the transportation of the Chasseurs du Alpines at Delouse. It was paraded for our inspection. Overcast. Received half soling machine.

24 Aug Fri.

Issued rear covers. Moved Am out to wood yard to protect from bombs. Received lumber for bath houses. Kobbe and Dortes are Colonels in the Nat Army.

25 Aug Sat.

Drew horse covers. Issued leather and boxes for slop pits. Opened the regimental shoe shop. Welch, Clark and I went for a long ride to the forest. Ate a tummy full of B. Berries and plums. Had a letter from Jo, Mama and Turley. Overcast.

26 Aug Sun.

Overcast and rain. Went for a long ride in the P.M. Had my hair cut. Clipped on top. Jeane came home. Wrote to Jo and Jim.

27 Aug Mon.

On my way to the Adj Office Col Kobbe met & congratulated me on my Majority. I found that I had been appointed a Major in the National Army and ordered to report to the Div Comdr of the ____ upon its arrival in France. Went to ____ on Q.M. business. Cold & overcast. Col Morrow lectured on trenches. Pike & Weeks are ordered for duty with the 28th Inf. Deposited money for comsy sales on invoice from El Paso.

28 Aug Tues.

Rainy & cold. Lecture by Col Parker Bowen & Short on machine guns. Col McAlexander called & spent the evening. Jeanne came up and taught Sandy & I French.

29 Aug Wed.

Cold & rain. Went to ____ to see the Chief Signal Officer but missed him. Saw the Div Q.M. Div Sig O. lectured in the PM and I went with him to inspect his telephone line to. Colonel Morrow sent me in a pair of gold leaves. Now if I had the cords & flags I would be fixed. Received a car of hay & 1 of blankets, ranges, brooms, etc.

30 Aug Thursday

Overcast and cold. Wore Major insignia for the 1st time and after quite an argument with Patch we put the leaves on upside down. Lecture by McAndrew. It was interesting and enlightening. On grenades, trench mortars & trench warfare. Wrote to Jo & Jim. Told Jim to get me some clothes & insignia. Band man committed suicide. He was to marry a French girl in a month. Received 3 signal lanterns.

31 Aug Fri.

Mustered the Co. Rain & sun. Received 6 mules from remount depot. Lecture by Maxay on rifle and bayonet instruction. Welch went to Paris. Buried the band man.

1 Sept Sat.

Overcast. Saw an artillery demonstration demolishing of wire entanglements, barrage etc. The shooting was very accurate. The 2 batts of the regt gave a party for the Chasseurs Du Alpines who have been instructing the Regiment. Had a ball game and then dinner with songs, dancing, boxing etc. There was champagne galore and everyone seemed to be having a beautiful time. Anyway, most of the Frenchmen could talk English and the Americans could talk French before the party was over.

Sun. 2 Sept

Overcast & cold. Mail and I did not receive a line from anyone. Welch returned with a Sam Brown belt for me and tales of a most wonderful time. Wrote to Jo. Wish I had electric lights for a change. Candles are very poor.

3 Sept Mon

Went to ____ Voris took me out to the school & 16th training ground. Maj Drain went with us. Fired a Chauchat rifle and do not think much of it. Beautiful day. Received 1 pounder for Hdqrs Co.

4 Sept Tues

Went to ____ Divisions & Depot QM & Ordnance. Beautiful day. Officers meeting at 5 PM. Sent ____ for hay. Received overcoats from Nevers. German planes passed over about 10 PM and dropped bombs on some of the towns up the line. Patch & I went out in the street but could not see them.

5 Sept

Artillery demonstration by the French. Started out but missed the road and came back. Went to Div & Depot QMs with Winters. Sibert came out in the Generals car and was taking Maj Robertson, Sandy & McDermott & I out to St Loire but a flat tire and then another one was too much for us and we turned back. Beautiful day. Wrote to Jo.

6 Sept Thursday

Review of the Division by General Pershing & the President of France. I did not attend. They inspected the towns where we are billeted after the inspections. Cloudy in the evening so the Bosche did not come around.

7 Sept

Went to the Division QM & Signal. Received Signal Lanterns for Companies and Grenades. Rode out to the Bois byond Bonnet. Fine country. Saw two mermaids or wood nymphs. Siebert came out in the evening and Sandy, Maj Robertson, McDermott & I took a ride with him. Picked up Wilson & Patch and went to _____ for a couple of bottles of champagne.

8 Sept Sat

The vet & I went for a ride in the PM. Went to Div Q.M. in forenoon. Played bridge with Patch & McDermott in the evening. It poured down rain. The sewer in our end of town blocked up and the houses were flooded. The women were very excited and I guess the soldiers were carrying them to dry land. Our house was full of them. The Col. spoke as if he might relieve me as supply officer and give me a chance to find out something about my new job.

9 Sept Sun

Overcast at times. Welsh & I went for a ride. 1 platoon ordered to the woods to camp for a week and cut wood for the regiment. Prior came over from Army Headquarters. He says we are to move to _____. Sorry it is not to the trenches. A drunken soldier got playful and ran all the women out of a house and they appealed to me for assistance. Took Sgt Barre and sent the man to the guard house. Then a M.P. accidently fired his pistol in the corner house and I was appealed to again. Lucky that he missed every one.

Mon 10 Sept

Went to Div QM & Signal offices. Copied Vons remarks on his observations at the front. Received a car load of clothing. Beautiful day.

Tues 11 Sept

2 letters from Jo written 4 & 6 of Aug. Issued clothing. Went to the Div Q.M. & Signal offices. Lecture on bayonet fighting by Major Conlon, British Army. Very interesting. Welsh & the Dr went riding. The Dr tried my horse and thinks he is the finest thing in France. Fine day.

Wed 12 Sept

3 letters from Jo & 1 from Mother. Sick all night & today. Took calomel. Went to Div Q.M. Issued clothing. Received order from W.D. assigning me to the ____ Division as Signal Officer. Overcast.

Thursday 13 Sept.

Cold & overcast. Sick all night and staid in bed until 9:30. Feel like the deuce today. Wrote to Jo. Gave her my Code Number. Went to Div Q.M.

Fire in fire place. Sandy & McDermott here all evening. This is Friday.

Friday 14 Sept

Free issue of Lucky Strike 4700 and Piedmonts 6100 given by the N.Y. Sun received and issued. Stayed in bed until 10:30. Felt rotten. Pike, Drake & Brewer went to Paris. Overcast & cold.

Sat 15 Sept

Went to Div Q.M. to see about starting a sales comsy (Commissary?). Rainy & cold.

Sun 16 Sept

Beautiful day. Rode to the woods by myself in the morning and Welsh, the vet Clark and I had a long ride in the PM out through a number of towns. Wrote to Jo. Had a fine dinner of tenderloin steak & onions.

Mon 17

Beautiful day. Went to Div Q.M. Opened sales comsy. Pike reports a wonderful time in Paris and says the chickens are wonderful. He is pleased for the school. Think I would be too if I were going to the same place. He gave me a new hat cord to wear with my new hat.

Tues 18 Sept

Beautiful day. Pike left for school at ?? Maxey was in for a few minutes. Had to buy 4 days potatoes at 15 Franks per 100 kilos. They were sure hard to find. Went to Div Q.M. & Signal Offices. Had dinner with Patch. Marshal lectured on his observations at the French offensive at Verdun. Had 2 letters from Jo.

Wed 19 Sept

Beautiful day. Wrote to Jo. Pay day. Went to Div Q.M. Capt Bissell's horse died. Rode out to the woods to see how much wood was cut. Was down to Dal's room for awhile. Bought potatoes for regiment.

Thurs 20 Sept

Went to _____ to pay 5 men of Supply Co. who are on D.S. with the Div. sanitary train. Walked to Bonnet with Welsh & the Vet in the evening. Col Morrow was up for a few minutes.

Fri 21 Sept

Beautiful day. Went to Div Q.M. Heard that the Q.M. of my Div is in and that the Div will be here in a very few days. Also heard that the "Vaderland" is in with 10,000 troops. Rode to the Ord Depot & then on to the woods. Attended a lecture at 4PM on artillery by a French officer through an interpreter. It was rotten. A wire was received that we are all Majors in the regular service down to Cooper, below Hunt.

Sat 22 Sept

Beautiful day. Went to Div Q.M. & Ordnance. Had a long conference with the chief O.O. Convinced him that the repairs as far as possible should be made in the regiment. Heard that my Div is arriving. A Bosche machine was over town and bombs were bursting all around him but none of them landed. However, French machines were notified by phone and got him about 10 miles out. Received a large shipment of tobacco & cigarettes and the men sure went for them. Played bridge with Patch & McDermott.

Sun 23 Sept

A most beautiful day. Sold tobacco etc all forenoon and rode with the Vet all afternoon. Had a beautiful ride. Dal went out to the woods in charge of the wood cutting detail. Wrote to Jo & Mother. Also the bank.

Mon 24 Sept

Wonderful day. Went to Div Ord, Sig & Q.M. Wired HQ AEF about order to join my Div. Ordered to join. Sibert took Patch & I to Bar-le-Duc. Spent a couple of hours looking over the place. Took a picture of an old tower 900 years old.

Tue 25 Sept

Went to Div & Depot Q.M. Saw a demonstration of liquid fire. Gen Duncan gave us a talk on what he wanted done. Clark & I walked out to the woods to see Dal and came home about 9PM. Col Robertson is ordered to the States. Beautiful day. 3 rolling kitchens received.

Wed 26 Sept

Beautiful day. Relieved as Supply Officer. Welch relieved from Supply Co. Clark detailed and knows nothing whatever of the job. The Colonel, Bessell, Heisinger & I went to Div Headquarters and the Col talked Gen Bundy in to letting me stay a couple of days to get Clark started right. Welsh, Clark & I took a walk after supper. Welsh feels rather humiliated I think not to have been made S.O. Had a letter from Jo & from Mother. Wrote to Jo.

27 Sept Thursday

Beautiful day. Took Clark to meet all the Chiefs of Supply Depts. Received some lumber for repair of billets. Clark & I walked out to see Dal. Did not get home until 10PM. Sold my horse to Clark. Sent some money to the Bank of S.F.

28 Sept Fri

Went to Div Q.M. Sig & Ord Offices. Learned at the Div Q.M. about 2 Companies of my Div being at their stations. Also that the 1st Div would very shortly go to the front. Oh my how I hate to leave it under such circumstances. Went out to see Dal. Beautiful day. French Inf in trucks have been passing through for several days.

29 Sept Sat

Finished the transfer to Clark. Went to Div Supply Offices. Big mail in. 2 letters from Jo inclosing letter from Jim & G. Drew difference in pay for Sept between Capt & Maj. Dal came in and the Vet & I walked out to camp with him. Wrote to Jo.

30 Sept Sun

Beautiful day on which to leave the old 1st. Packed up and sent my baggage on its way at 8:45. We sent two men down with it and I expected to find it all nicely arranged in my billet but nothing doing. Even had to get my billet fixed up after my arrival and then wait for a French Capt. to move out. Besides it is over a cafe with all kinds of good looking chickens around so what is to become of me I do not know. Voris, Swartz & _____ brought us over. Only one regiment of the Div is in so far as we know and they will arrive here tomorrow. Oh joy oh bliss. We have electric street lights now. What do you know about that.

Mon 1 Oct

Beautiful day. Had a poor nights sleep. Too much noise in the street. Found Lieut Harrington, one of my assistants and he knows as little about what is going on as I do. Called up Hitt and had a talk with him. He started a man down in a machine with plans but the machine went down and he had to postpone the trip until tomorrow. Gen Traub and the 101 Regt arrived. There was a parade of welcome to the American troops by the Batt stationed here and a French Batt. Gen Bunch & his staff and the staff of the 26th Div attended. After the street parade the Batts faced each other and presented arms while the French Band played the Star Spangled Banner and then our band played the Marseillaise. Cannot do much for the French chow. Having a headache I think I will go to bed.

2 Oct Tuesday

Beautiful day. Capt Waddle came in and told me of his plans on the construction of the lines in this district. Then the plans from Hitt's office were brought in by Glassby. Waddle had lunch with me and then we obtained permission to use the R.R. poles over part of the distance. Paid 2 Francs for 1 kilo of grapes.

3 Oct Wed

Overcast & rainy. Arranged to unload 4 cars of telephone poles, switchboard, phones and wire received for division lines. Had a long conference with Col. Burge, French Liaison Officer, on the construction of our lines. Bessell & I called on Gen. Bundy. Found him very pleasant. Wrote to Jo.

4 Oct Thursday

Overcast & cold. Started wiring the town. Central Office opened switchboard. Was made Division Ordnance Officer pending arrival of the Hdqtrs staff. Gen Sibert & Col. Cheatham were here. Telegraph poles unloaded. A bunch of nurses were in the hotel for dinner and it was sure worth while to see them.

5 Oct Fri

Cold & rainy. Received big bunch of insulators & screws & car load of cross arms. Installation of phones is progressing. Hdqrs Building is located in No 21 Rue Neusse. Wrote a letter for an auto. Suppose I will get it in the neck. The French band gave a concert in front of Hdqrs and it sure can play. So cold I think I shall go to bed. Got a store room today that was in use before the war as a sale room for harness, automobiles, fixtures, etc. It was in the same condition as when war broke out. The harness was more or less mildewed but the other things were in good shape.

6 Oct Sat

Cold & rainy. Located the Officer building in the chateau. Took the best for myself of course. The first phone on this line was cut in at 3:40 so it appears that things are moving.

7 Oct Sun

Cold & overcast windy. Cut in the Chaumont Gondrecourt trunk line and had conversation with Lieut Glasby at 9:15. They were very pleased to have the line in operation. Went with Wattles to Bourmont to look over the route for a line down there. Beautiful country. Moved the office into the chateau. Wrote to Jo.

8 Oct Mon

Cold & rainy. Line to Gondrecourt down. Have a devil of a cold. Phoned to Voris in the PM. Pershing is a full Gen.

9 Oct Tues

Still cold & overcast. Phoned to the Chaplain about mail. He said he had sent me over a letter and package. Neither received so far. Bought a handkerchief for Jo at the bathes. Felt like the deuce so am going to bed to get warm. Phoned to Col. Hitt and he told me they expected some cars in a week and that I will get one. Some of the officers of the 42 Div are in.

10 Oct Wed

Cold & Overcast. Wrote to Jo. Had a box of candy from G. Mailed Jo Govt check 8251 for \$51.14 of Oct 10th Lieut J.A. Harmon. Appointed on a board to prescribe measures for use offensively & defensively against aeroplanes. Rumored that the rest of the 102nd Inf was sunk off Halifax. They are apparently long overdue.

11 Oct Thur

Cold & overcast. Cold much better. Board of antiaircraft met and adjourned. Talked to Voris over the phone. Sent a postal to G. Switchboards. Received a car load of copper wire. Tried to make arrangements for a store room but have not had much success.

12 Oct Fri

Cold and rained all day. A sure enough fall day. The anti air board met and took up the defense of town with the French Gen. They already have guns set up and we visited locations where others are to be installed. Wrote to Gertrude. Heard that some more of the Div is in England about 7000.

13 Oct

Cold rain & wind. Cleared up toward evening. Received stationary, switchboards, tape & cells. Bowers relieved as interpreter and Corp ____ detailed. Phoned Houdelaincourt and they sent me some mail but it did not arrive. Co.D, 1st Tel Batt moved into town. The board met and finished its business in reference to the protection of the town.

14 Oct Sun

Cold overcast, few drizzles. Had a meeting for 2 PM. Lieut Glasby and the owner of the garage but Glasby could not come. Got Capt Waddles to take me to Houdelaincourt. Saw Dal for a minute. Could not get my clothes. He promised to have them for me sure by next Tuesday. Dal's Batt goes to the front the 28th of the month. The 1st Batt before that. Sorry I am not back in the same old outfit. Had letters from Mother & Jo & ornaments from Jim. Wrote to Jo.

15 Oct Mon

Sun, clouds & rain, cold. Gen. Pershing and Joffre were due to arrive at 10 AM. They finally came at 12:30 and had luncheon at the Providence - by the way, I am eating there - then at 5 PM they reviewed the French and American troops. They were lined up along the street. I attended on the staff of Gen Traub. Had a B ache all day. Wrote to Mother.

16 Oct Tue

Beautiful day, chilly. Lt Harrington beat it off to Chaumont without even saying by your leave. Phoned Col. Chatham about his surplus animals for this Division. Hitt phoned me to try and rush the Sig. Corps Batt of this Div. Guess he wants to put them to work.

17 Oct Wed

Frost, beautiful day. Col. Dowel, J.A., arrived and says Gen. Edwards has gone for a trip to the front and will not be here for several days. Harrington ordered to some artillery range to do some wiring. Had letter from Jo. Card from Helen N. and the deed. Wrote to Jo. Harrington was here for a couple of hours.

18 Oct Thurs

Cold and rainy. The Sig Batt arrived at 2 PM. Were scheduled for 8 AM and the time kept going up a hour. Reminded me of our belated trains in the U.S. Col. Hitt was to have a truck here for them but it has not arrived yet. Maj Rumbaugh 42nd Div ordered to Vauchules.

19 Oct Fri

Overcast & sunny in spots. Visited the Signal Batt and had a cup of coffee and talked over to some extent the work to be done. 7 officers & 55 non coms have already been sent to school. Harrington has gone to install signal system on artillery range. Phoned to Glasby about a lot of things. Tractor & trailer, phones switch boards, etc. Got a lovely big plush chair for my office.

20 Oct Sat

Cold & overcast. Market day. Bought some pears and later Dowell & I bought apples and he got a pair of sox. Acknowledged a deed before a French notary and it took about two hours and endless talk and two witnesses. Gen. Russell called up and informed me that he would be down tomorrow to look me over. Ho! Ho! I shall welcome him gladly. Gave Gen. Traub my helmet and gas mask. He is going to the front soon. There was a dutchman over last night. Heard today that a German submarine had been captured and towed into New York harbor. Hello, lights out - another Dutchman over town. Suppose they will bomb us soon.

21 Oct Sun

Beautiful day. Waited all forenoon for Gen. Russell and then ran into him at the Hotel. They had been down to see a Zeppelin that came down. About 700 feet long. There were 3 or 4 of them. Had to come down on account of no gas. Guess they were blown off their course. Morning paper states that the British towed a German sub into N.Y. harbor. Heard that a transport returning to the U.S. was sunk. 70 casualties. Hitt, Gibbs, Mitchell & Bird were up with the Gen. He looked over the Batt & Tel Co.

Mon 22 Oct

Cold & foggy. Capt Crafts & I on a motorcycle & side car went to Bonhomme to see the German zeppelin L49. It is a perfect monster for size and one cannot imagine how large it is until he has seen it. It is not badly damaged and should be in the present condition for some time. Flirted with a very pretty girl about 4:30. 4 of us went to Gondrecourt to pay off some men in the Batt and see Maj Chase. Got home about 8:30 and was sick all night. Up a couple of times and did not sleep any.

Tues Oct 23

Liberty Bond is up for us today. Do not know how much was subscribed. I took 4 bonds for the babes. Felt bum all day. Hitt & Glasby came down to see about the store room. They were satisfied with what we have and instead of a shop here it will have to be in Chaumont. My typewriter came today. Helmets & Cauchat rifles for Div have arrived. Gee I look so thin I am scared of myself and feel so queer I am going to bed. The young woman is playing beautifully the piano.

Oct 24 Wed

Cold & overcast. Crafts & Wattles came to my office to arrange for taking over the telephone installation. Went to Gondrecourt in the PM and on to the regiment. Met some mut riding my horse and we almost ran over him. Had to run off the road and narrowly missed a tree and as it was the car turned over and skinned the drivers knee all up. Tooth is worse so I will have to see one of the darling dentists. Learned that Molyneux has been in the hospital at Bayoilles for a couple of weeks. Some of the aliens from the 1st were lost on the Antilles. Dal is asst to the S.O.

Oct 25 Thurs

Poured down rain at times and the sun shown beautifully at times. Tooth gave me the deuce. Dentist lanced the gum twice and it relieved it to some extent. Tried to find a X-ray machine to photograph it but there is none closed than Chaumont. May have to go there as the dentist does not think it is the tooth as they are all solid. When I was looking for the dentist I ran into Williams, now Sgt Maj, who was ward master of F Ward and ordered the \$7.00 roses for me. He is quite stout. Funny that we should meet in such a big place as this. Bessell is back for a day or two. The town mayor is giving a big reception to a big bunch of us tonight but I don't know whether I can go with this tooth or not.

26 Oct Fri

Cold & overcast. Went to the party and returned at 12 midnight. Had a fine time with real ice cream and fine pastry. Had sandwiches made of American bread and how the Frenchmen did go for them. First they had seen in a long time I guess. Excellent music. Tooth was still hurting this morning so I went to Bayoilles and saw a sure enough dentist. He was undetermined as to the reason and wanted an X-ray but the X-ray specialist was up at the front. However he drilled into a perfectly sound tooth and treated it as the swelling was at the root of it. Am to see him tomorrow. Went to see Molyneaux and he is feeling pretty good. Wants to get back to the regiment. Wrote a long letter to Jo just because it was our anniversary.

27 Oct Sat

Rained all night and all day. Bought some apples & pears at the market. Went to the dentist again at 9 and he certainly did give me the deuce. First he squeezed a thimble full of puss out of my gum and then he drilled the tooth until the drill dropped through my chin but he put some dope in my tooth and it felt much better all day. The Gen. had a meeting at 2 PM of all the heads of Dept & Organizations at which we discussed supply mostly. Am going to have one of those delightful basin baths tonight.

28 Oct Sun

Rain & snow. First snow of the season. Wrote to Jo, Jim & Mama. Phoned to Voris about work at the front. Been here 4 weeks today. Seems an awfully long time.

29 Oct Mon

Cold but clear. Snow on hills. Went to dentist and he fixed my tooth up temporarily to do until the X-ray machine is ready. Then he wants to take a picture to determine the cause of the trouble. Heard that Div HQ is leaving Havre so we will have them with us in a few days. Put up a stove in the office and got some wood. Joy at last. Am eating with the 101st Officers mess. Took up the question of a cable office.

30 Oct Tue

Big Frost & ice. Beautiful day. Opened telegraph office and cable office. Glasby, Repp & Serotan were down from the Chief's office. Went to Grondcourt with them and back by side car. Saw Voris for a few minutes. Also saw a big mail headed for the 18th Inf. So I may get something tomorrow. Our first casualty occurred yesterday. Lieut Hardin, Sig Corps, wounded by shrapnel. Understand they tore his clothing all to pieces at the hospital for souvenirs.

31 Oct Wed

Overcast. Division Hdqtrs arrived and we now seem to have more than enough officers. Turned the Ord job over to the man it belongs to. Gen Traub came back from the front. Phoned the Regt and they got a big mail yesterday. Don't see why I don't get some.

1 Nov Thurs

Beautiful day. Was going to Chaumont but could not get started in the morning and took the afternoon for it. Home at 6 nearly frozen. Had 4 letters from Jo and a package of candy. She is at last with Mother and has found out that I am a Major. I'll bet she soon gets enough of the cold weather. Was told at Hdqrs that I will get an auto about the end of the week. Received word that the Outpost company is increased materially. Moved telegraph office to my office.

2 Nov Fri

Overcast & drizzly all day. Had a long talk with Crafts on instruction, equipment, etc. 6 Major Generals with Chiefs of Staff & Aides blew in to be cared for overnight. Moved the mounted dispatch service to my office. Understand that the Italians lost 180,000 men and 1500 guns. Saw in the paper that the first prisoner we captured died of wounds. He was a dispatch carrier and lost his way. He reported that the German soldiers did not know that American soldiers were on the front.

3 Nov Sat

Overcast. Received word about 20 Ford trucks that are coming here to be set up, painted and distributed 4 to a Div area. Expect my car to be in tomorrow. Whoop La! Inspected the Gen's house with Dowell & Simpkins.

4 Nov Sun

Overcast. Had a delayed letter from Jo. Also a picture of Jim Arrasmith Jr and a note from Jim about the clothes from Sigmund Eisner. 3 French cars arrived at noon for me but there must be some mistake about 2 of them. Went to see Dal in one of them and took Dowell along. Had a talk with Brewer about the front. His Batt got the first prisoner and had the first man wounded the 16th. Were raided Fri night and had 3 men killed, 5 wounded and 12 missing. Wrote to Jo and the two babes.

5 Nov Mon

Overcast, warm. 20 Ford trucks arrived to be set up and painted. The Chief says I can go to the front when I want to. Dowell & I took a long walk before dinner.

6 Nov Tue

Overcast, warm. Turned over 2 of my French cars to the 101st Div and Capt Wattles Co. Got a buzzer and am trying to learn the code. Dowell & I went for a walk. Davis came up to the office and sent on the buzzer to me.

7 Nov Wed

Overcast & drizzling. The Lafayette Club opened at 3 PM with a big turn out of French & US Officers. An excellent concert was rendered by the 69th French Band. Sent Major Coulon, English Army, to Gondrecourt in my car at 6 PM. He is delivering lectures on bayonet fighting. Wrote to Jo. Have a B ache

8 Nov Thurs

Overcast & cold. Felt like the deuce, Sour stomach. Sent Maj Coulon to Rebieville in the machine. Went over to Nancourt to see how they are getting along with the Fords. Dowell and I walked from 5 to 6 and I walked after dinner from 7 to 9.

9 Nov Fri

Rainy & overcast. A French RR officer was to see me about the lines we are using of theirs to Bourmont. Sent Maj Coulon to Pompierre in the car. Went to Chaumont. Simpkins and a French Capt rode back with me. Pretty strong rumors to the effect that Div Hdqrs will be routed out of here.

10 Nov Sat

Rainy & overcast. 3 French officers called on me in reference to their Signal Corps school and I arranged to send 4 Officers & 26 enlisted men. It is a 8 weeks course. The General arrived at 5 o'clock. We all turned out to meet him and the Band & 1 Batt of the 101st were turned out. Gen Pershing is coming tomorrow. Ate so many beans and doughnuts for supper that I am liable to burst before morning. Had a pair of moccasins and a letter from Jo.

11 Nov Sun

Overcast. Gen. Pershing inspected billets. Went to Houdelainecourt in the PM. Dal had gone to the front with the transportation. Wanted to see Voris but he was out. Dowell & I called on the Gen. and found that everyone else was doing the same thing. Wrote to Jo.

12 Nov Mon

Overcast & sun in spots. Received films from Jo. Have arranged it with the C of S to go to the front. Phoned Voris and he will let me know tomorrow whether I am to go alone or with him. Got my mask and helmet back from Gen. Traub.

13 Nov Tues

Beautiful day. Did very little. Voris phoned me that he could not get permission to send me to the front this week. Too many high brows going up. He hopes to take me the first of the week. Had a chill and sat by Dowell's fire all evening.

14 Nov Wed

Beautiful day. No news. Simmonds goes on Gen Staff work of the Div. Cass as Adj. Went to Certilleux. Took the Inspector. Went for a walk with Cass & Maybach out to the trenches that are under construction. A bunch of Officers are to go to the Staff College. Would like to be one of them.

15 Nov Thurs

Beautiful day. Col Mitchel S.C. and Voris came down. Mitchell to look over the instruction of the Bn. Voris came to see Mitchell. Have a tooth ache. Went in the parlor of the house last night and tried to talk some French with the Madame and her daughter. Heard that we had more losses from shell fire last night. 3 killed & 6 wounded. A corporal of the 28th was killed the night before by a sniper.

Nov 16 Fri

Beautiful day. Had the tooth ache all night. Went to Bayoilles and they had everything torn up. The dentist of the 101st fixed it up for me. Nancy was bombarded again last night and we expected it. Heard today that Villa had taken Chihuahua.

Nov 17 Sat

Overcast & sunshine. Heard that we had about 100 wounded last night. Gen. Edwards & Shelton confined to quarters with bad colds. Simonds goes to the Gen Staff at Hdqrs. Exton comes here. Had letters from Jo & Jim.

Nov 18 Sun

Beautiful day. Overcast. The Gen and his staff inspected our offices in the chateau and wants to get the whole place. Cass, Maybach, Weisel & I walked all afternoon. Went to the 101st F. Bn to an entertainment picture and songs. There were 18 wounded received at No. 18 yesterday. Wrote to Jo.

Nov 19 Mon

Beautiful day. Overcast. I now call everyday beautiful when it does not rain. Had a session with the dentist. Dowell & I walked from 4 to 6:45. Are giving a dinner for Col. Simmonds tonight at the club.

Nov 20 Tues

Overcast, cold. Took Chase & Krafts to Chaumont. Saw Hartman. Received medicine from Jo. Went to dentist at Leffonds and he thinks he can fix me up.

Nov 21 Wed

Rain. Party at 101st F Bn. Boxing, singing & movies. Col. Exton joined.

Nov 22 Thurs

Fine day. Col Simmonds left. Wrote to Jo. Installed phone for surgeon.

Nov 23 Fri

Overcast. The General was taken to the hospital. Chase & I visited the French Signal School. Received watches and flashlights for office. Got a bill for 40 Franks for Simmonds dinner which does not appeal to me at all.

Nov 24 Sat

Went to Liffonds to dentist. Heard that I am to go to the Gondrecourt school. Can't say that I like it. Shelton wanted to work me in on intelligence work. Was crazy with the tooth ache most of the night while the nerve was dieing. Overcast.

Nov 25 Sun

Poured down rain. Sunshine, sleet & snow. Went to Houdelaincourt. Took Maj Kennedy, Engr, to Gondrecourt. Had lunch with the Col. Heard lots of things about the front. Wrote to Jo and the Arrasmiths.

26 Nov Mon

Sun, overcast, rain & snow. Phoned to Mitchell about the school and he was quite upset to think that the order had not arrived. Left for Gondrecourt and of all the mud holes I ever saw it takes the cake. Was assigned to a barrack where the mud was ankle deep around my bunk. Saw Rutherford and he is as sore as a boiled owl.

27 Nov Tue

Rain & snow. Had lectures & demonstrations in gas and the protection. Went through a gas chamber with the respirator on. Moved into another building. Bowers brought lumber and fixed up my corner of the squad room.

28 Nov Wed

Overcast. Finished the gas course. Has all kinds of drills in the gas chamber one of which was to change from the respirator to the French mask inside the tank. It was filled with enough chlorine to put one out with only a few breaths. Had the exam in the evening. Went to Neufchateau for Thanksgiving.

29 Nov Thurs

Thanksgiving. Overcast. Had an excellent dinner at the 101st Hdqrs mess. Turkey, potatoes, sweet potatoes, squash, cauliflower, dressing & gravy, apples, oranges, nuts, plum pudding, mince pie & salad. The acting Sig Officer jumped all over me for signing some papers. He evidently is greatly impressed with the importance of the job. Cass & I went out to the football game and then took a long walk over the hill. Wrote to Jo, Cutie and cards to Gen Davis, Gertrude, Helen and Mother. Dowell & I took a long walk in the evening. Back to the school at 10 PM.

30 Nov Fri

Overcast. The Signal course started and I think I can learn a lot of things. Returned to camp from Neufchateau about 11 last night. We are having lectures interspersed with a lot of buzzer and visual signaling.

1 Dec

Overcast. Sat. Had a morning session of the signal class and left for Neufchateau at 1 PM. Elkerts went up with me. I went on out to Leffonds and had a session with the dentist. Then had a talk with Col Shelton about my status. He advised me to put everything up to Chase while I am away and then there could be no comeback if anything goes wrong.

2 Dec Sun

Rain, sun, snow, some colder. Meeting of all Div Staff Officers at 11:30 and Col Shelton gave us a long talk on what was expected of us. Wrote to Mother & Jo and sent G an Xmas handkerchief. Had letters from Jo, Mother & Clarence. Maj Cass went to the hospital with a severe cold. Returned to school at 3 PM.

3 Dec Mon

Overcast, cold. Snow on ground. Signal School Course. Rumored that course will be cut short so that we can be home for Xmas. Drill & walk for 45 minutes.

4 Dec

Overcast. Cold as the deuce. Ground frozen and about 1" snow. Gen. Bliss, Col. House, Gen Pershing and a retinue of women and others visited the school and all the classes gave demonstrations for them. We turned out to see them.

5 Dec

Overcast, colder. Nothing out of the ordinary happened.

6 Dec

Overcast, coldest morning yet. Our squad room went for a 45 minute walk. Signal school.

7 Dec

Overcast, warmer. 45 minute walk. Exam in signal class. Met Rafter and a bunch of 18th teamsters on our walk. Saw Col. Morrow.

8 Dec Sat

Overcast. Walk. Signal school. Went to Neufchateau in PM. Had a session with dentist. Had 4 letters from Jo and a package of socks. Wrote Jo a long letter 12 pages.

9 Dec Sun

Fine day. Wrote to Mother. Had letter from Jo, Jim, Mother and bill from Sig Eisner. The 42nd Div is to be moved. They are too close to the front under the present conditions and it is desirable to get them out of the way so if the Germans come to this front they will not interfere with the movement of troops. The 26th may also have to move. Had a long session with Col. Shelton. He was outlining the work of his intelligence section and I will have some of the work to do. I left cablegrams to be sent to Jo and Mother. Returned to school in the afternoon.

10 Dec Mon

All the school went to Washington Center to witness demonstrations. Had cloud gas, artillery and M.G. barages. Wind came up in the afternoon and it was cold as the deuce. Saw Dal for 1/2 hour and invited myself out to Xmas dinner. Overcast.

11 Dec Tues

Cold & overcast. Walk. Signal school. 42nd Div is moving so fighting troops can occupy that territory. So they will be handy for German activities. The bunch sang until 9:30. Aeroplane bombarded Bar-le-Duc. Toothache.

12 Dec Wed

School. Walk. Dr Healey ordered back to his station for not getting back from Paris on time. 42nd Div is moving. Overcast.

13 Dec Thurs

School. Walk. Healey left. So we now have but 12 in our building. Overcast. 3 German planes went over.

14 Dec Fri

School. Lecture on camouflage. Examination. Warmer and drizzling. Walk down through the chateau grounds.

15 Dec Sat

Overcast. School in forenoon. Went to Neufchateau for the weekend. Had a session with the dentist.

16 Dec Sun

Overcast, colder. Meeting at the General's of all Brigade, Regt and staff comdrs. Went to Bayoilles and had an X-ray of my jaw taken. Went across to La Fauche and back. Out to Houdelaincourt to see Dal. Supply Co. was out in the street for inspection. Dal was out to Washington Center.

17 Dec Mon

Snow, cold & overcast. Work outside with T.P.S. & T.S.F. Reports have it that Germany is massing troops near Nancy and Verdun. Peace negotiations between her and Russia. All the Doctors left us for their various stations for the remainder of the term. Letter from Walt.

18 Dec Tues

Colder & windy, overcast. School inside. Demonstration by Major Swartz Bn. of liaison with aeroplane by Inf. Rumors that the 1st & 26th Div are going to Italy. Voris is back from the British front. Walk.

19 Dec Wed

Cold, overcast. School. Rumor that we will have to move to another building. B. ache. Paper says Germans are concentrating for big drive on French front.

20 Dec Thurs

Cold, foggy. Walk down the Meuse river. Saw a stork. In PM we prepared for problem tomorrow. Went to Depot Q.M. and bought hat, cap and shoes.

Dec 21 Fri

Cold, foggy. Rehearsed the problem from 8 to 11. Saw Col. Morrow. The problem was staged at 2:15 zero hour. Stokes mortar barrage was very poor but artillery and M.G. barrages were excellent. German airplanes were reported coming our way but they did not show up.

Dec 22 Sat

Colder, overcast. Walked out to see a Spad, French aeroplane. School in forenoon. Went to Neufchateau in PM. Called on the Gen. and had a long talk with him. (Was informed that he liked my looks.) Col. Beachem is ordered away. Pendleton will be Div Q.M. Landlady had a hot water mug in my bed. Gee it was fine.

Dec 23 Sun

Little sun. Returned to Gondrecourt. 12 German machines were reported headed in this direction. Did not show up. Have an awful cold. Big guns going all night. Wrote to Jo, G and Walt. Had a letter from Jo.

24 Dec Mon

8 below zero. Sun shown for awhile. Warmed up. Walked. School. 12 medicos moved into our building. We had nuts, raisens, candy, fruit, champagne, song and stories. Ryan was sick in bed. We turned in at 10. It was warmer and snowing.

Merry Xmas

Overcast, warmer. The members of the Signal Class in this building 641 had a dispatch case hanging on my bunk when I returned from breakfast. The only present I received. Walked out to Houdelaincourt. Called on the Adj. Col. Saw Molyneux. Inspected Supply Co. dinner. It was so good I wanted to stop there for dinner. Dal the lobster had gone to Paris. Talked to Molyneux most of the afternoon. Douglas, Arizona sent a big supply of candy, nuts and tobacco to the 1st Inf. for Xmas. Have one deuce of a cold.

26 Dec

Overcast. About 2 inches of snow on the ground. Had such a cough I did not go for a walk with the bunch. School. Snowed in spells.

27 Dec Thurs

Snow. Walked down through chateau grounds. Examination. Did not do very well in it. Felt too rotten. Our 5 Doctors returned late, cold and glad to get back. Sun shown awhile and we took pictures of the bunch.

28 Dec Fri

Blizzard. Problem called off. We had no wood so had to go to bed early. Tommy, Senator, Gaylord & Crawford went to town for the night.

29 Dec

Clear, 8 above zero. Snow drifted badly. They could not start my car so I had to come up with Capt Crafts in a Ford auto. Did not get started until late and then had to turn back for a Capt he forgot. Arrived at 5:30. Found 3 letters from Jo, 1 from Mother and letters enclosed from Helen, Mabel and Mother Anslyn. Also a box of candy from G and sox & wringlets. A big box from home from everyone. Just the things I wanted. It really was a sure enough Xmas evening if such a thing by oneself is possible. Am concerned over the tone of Jo's letter. Don't know what to think. Had a bath, first in a month and am going to bed. Hope my cold is better in the morning. Coughed all night.

30 Dec Sun

Cold, sun shone in spots. Wrote to Jo. Missed a meeting at the Gen's. Was not notified. Felt so rotten in the PM everyone gave me the dickens for not seeing the Dr and go to bed. Walked up to the aviation field with Cass, Dowell, Maybach & Stevens. Home early and to bed. Landlady knew I was sick and brought me up a glass of hot sherry or cognac. Enough to make a family drunk. Also a bowl of hot milk and sugar. Warmed up my bed and tucked me in. Said to knock on the wall if I needed anything at night.

31 Dec Mon

Cold. Sick in bed. Dr. said if I could get things to eat and be comfortable I could stay here in bed rather than go to the hospital. So I am staying. The landlady keeps filling me up with hot drinks and if Jo could see how weak I am she would be surprised at her old man. This is certainly a great way to end up 1917.

1918

1 Jan Tues

Still cold, some sun. In bed all day. Sent my card to the Gen. Had toast, eggs & chocolate so feel quite strong. Had many thoughts for the coming year and what it will bring forth. Wonder where I will be a year hence. In the U. S. I hope.

2 Jan Wed

Overcast. The Dr. let me get up for a part of the day. Box of candy from home. Wrote to Jo.

3 Jan Thurs

Beautiful day. Shelton goes to the 104 Inf. Dowell is C of S. Everybody gets promoted but Bill.

4 Jan Fri

Coldest morning yet. Beautiful day. Dowell says I am to work in the Operations Section. Had a bad night. Coughed all night.

5 Jan Sat

Zero weather. Beautiful day. 2 letters from Jo. Box of candy & muffler from Helen. Attached to operations section. Also temporary Asst Adjutant. Cass sent to hospital with pneumonia.

Sun Jan 6

Cold, beautiful day. Meeting at General's. Several French Officers for Division arrived. Gen is giving a big dinner this evening for Gen Munroe and other French Officers at the Club. Wrote to Jo. Had a fine dinner. Did not get home until 11 o'clock.

Jan 7 Mon

Raining and so slick. Arranged for a moving picture operator for Division. Wrote to Gee, Helen & Mother. Bought 2 pair of English breeches.

Jan 8 Tues

Snowing. Moved my office to Div Hdqrs. 1st U. S. is going to the front with the 69th Div French.

Jan 9 Wed

Snowing, colder. Relieved as Asst Div Adj. Back on Operations and Intelligence. Wrote to Jo. Heard that Wood is in France and is coming to Neufchateau to command 1st Corps as Lieut Gen. Lovely.

10 Jan Thurs

8" of snow, warm, overcast. Moving picture Lieut & 2 operators joined the Div.

11 Jan Fri

Sprinkling, snow melting. Very slick & sloppy. 6th Div French left for trenches.

12 Jan Sat

Sun & overcast. Everything covered with ice. Slick as the deuce. Colonel DeWitt & McClane called. They are Corps Hdqrs personnel. Do not know when Hdqrs are coming.

13 Jan Sun

Overcast, snow. Staff meeting at the Generals. Letter from Jo. Wrote to Jo. Capt Mailick and Lt Marty had lunch with us.

14 Jan

Cold. Beautiful day. Inspected drill at Nancourt. Went for a walk with Col. Hobbs.

15 Jan

Drizzeling. Slicker than ever. Worked on Brigade problems. Col. Fitch was in a few minutes.

Jan 16

Rain. Most of the ice gone. Cooper sent to front to photo 1st Div. Col Parker joined to take command 102 Inf. Wrote to Jo. Gen. Russell phoned to me.

17 Jan Thurs

Rain. Went to Gondrecourt for electrolyte. On to Houdelaincourt and found all the 18th Inf. gone but Sgt Leftkovitz and 7 cripples. The 7th F.A. was in town temporarily. Broke down coming home and I rode with Capt Constance? Saw Col Chetham and he and Voris are coming to Neufchateau on Sunday on the Staff of the 1st Corps.

18 Jan Fri

My Gen Court met. Worked on problem for the Brigade. New uniform order doing away with the campaign hat and substituting the dinky little thing. Also a leave order allowing us 7 days in each 4 months. Rainy and overcast. Warm.

19 Jan sat

Overcast. Went to Field Bn to see what they were doing. Maj Paddock came down about equipment. Said we would be the next Div to go to the trenches. Phoned to Bessell at Bourmont.

20 Jan Sun

Beautiful day. At the meeting at the Generals he informed us that we are going to the trenches inside of 10 days. Whoop - the entire division will be in for 15 days with a French Division. Then we come back for a training period and go back and take over a sector. Oh Joy. Went to the Generals for dinner. He has a way of asking me what I think of certain officers. Stevens, Case and I went for a walk out the Nancy road. Wrote to Jo and Jim.

21 Jan Mon

Beautiful day. Had a long talk with Voris and I do not think our Div is any worse off than the 1st. Phoned to the front to Cooper over our own line. Went to Nancourt in the P.M. Had 2 letters from Jo. Exton relieved from the operations section and this leaves me to do all the work.

22 Jan

Overcast. Voris was in the office early. He phoned the front and the Bosch raided the 1st Inf last night but got nothing. G.C.M. of which I am the President sat all day in the French Court Room.

23 Jan

Overcast. G.C.M. Letter from Jo. Heard that 1st was gassed and lost some men by shell fire. Wrote to Jo. Had Voris to dinner.

24 Jan Thurs

Beautiful day. Went to Gondrecourt in the P.M. for signal supplies. Information about our move and it is for 30 days. The 1st lost 2 men and 4 wounded by shell fire. Meeting at generals on M.Gs.

25 Jan Fri

Beautiful day. Went to Chaumont to see about getting property. Met Griswold and Magruder. Certainly was fine to see them. Griz was tickled to death. We are to go to the front Feb 5th.

26 Jan Sat

Beautiful day. Gen's Hale, Kuhn & Kennedy were here. Griswold had lunch with me. Dowell and I behind locked doors worked out the scheme of our departure. Cooper came back from the front. Was ordered to be ready to go our Front to line things up for a few days along with others, but the Corps cut Bevans and I off the list. Gen Russell & Gibbs were in for a few minutes and went on to Toul.

27 Jan Sun

Beautiful day. Voris & I visited the 1st Div at the front. Went through Toul. Had dinner with Sig Corps. Ran in to Gen. Russell & Gibbs and did not get a chance to get up to the trenches. Would have gone on to Beaumont but the Bosch were shelling the road to beat the band. Went to the Generals for a conference with the Chief of Staff.

28 Jan Mon

Beautiful day. Worked all day on letter of instructions for movement of Div. Heingleman is here as operations man on the Corps Staff. Received a pair of socks from Jo.

29 Jan Tue

Beautiful day. Dentist finished with me. Went out to see the M.Gs of the Div fire.

30 Jan Wed

Overcast. 3 letters and some pictures from Jo, letter from Mother. Met Col. Roberts whom I have not seen since 1901 on North end of Samar. Gen Wood was wounded slightly and his aid(e) seriously reported.

31 Jan Thurs

Foggy & frosty all day. Albright and I went to the 1st Div. Had dinner with the Sig Bn. Voris was there. Went on to 18th Hdqrs and back to the Supply Co. Saw all the old timers. Got a leather coat on memo receipt. They are fine for the wind. Home at 6:30. Albright had dinner with me. Co. I 18th was raided yesterday. 2 killed, 1 captured and 4 wounded. Paris was bombed last night, damage not given.

1 Feb Fri

Frosty & foggy. G.C.M., 1 case. Ordered to be ready to go to Soissons by Machine tomorrow. Packed and got things in shape. Have to take King with me.

2 Feb Sat

Ground Hog Day. A beautiful day so Mr Ground Hog can go back to his hole for 6 weeks. Left Neufchateau at 8:30 and had dinner in Chalons. Lost a lot of time getting gas and arrived in Soissons at 6:30. Came through Epernay and Chateau-Thierry. Staid (sic) the night in the room of Capt Valet. Soissons shows bomb and shell destruction everywhere. Had dinner at the hotel and my driver met his cousin. Did not even know she was over here.

3 Feb Sun

Beautiful day. Met Capt Carabin, Chief of the French Corps communications and we had two long confabs through an interpreter. While I was in his office the Anti Aircraft guns quite near opened on a German machine. Came to Couvrelles this evening and Walcott and Lamette have possession of a fine old chateau for our billets and hdqrs. Had dinner with 2 French officers as we did not have wood to cook with. I triscard (?) an armfull of brush and they spent the evening in front of my fireplace.

4 Feb Mon

Beautiful day. Had a session with Capt Carabin, French, on communications. Went to Div Hdqrs at Jouy. Came back to the chateau at 2:30. Went through the wrecked cathedral in Soissons and it is about as bad as the one in Verdun. Jouy is also totally wrecked. Our art[illery] is arriving. Wrote to Jo. Walcott, West-Phalen & I had dinner in the kitchen of the chateau this evening. Great - beefsteak & onions. Then we sat all evening in front of my fire.

5 Feb Tues

Beautiful day. Had a fine sleep in my debutante bed. Went to Soissons for Capt Carabin and then to Div Hdqrs 22 Div to consult with the Sig Officer. In the afternoon went to Crouy and got the S.O. 61 Div and went to the P.C. of the Col of the 19th Inf, French. Had tea with him and visited the stations of his radio, telephone, dog and optical communications. Think it is a very good regiment from appearances. The trip was the most interesting that I have had yet as we passed through part of the sector where the attack on Mal-Maison was pulled off. I never believed shell holes could be so thick. All evidence of where the German trenches were are shot away. On the road to Jeviguy I saw that the first road camouflaging I had seen. But saw plenty of it later. Mayback came up.

Feb 6 Wed

Beautiful day. Went to Narvis, 21 Div French to consult with the S.O. In the PM visited the P.C. of the Col, Maj & Capt in the 22 Div French where our Co. will be located. Was not very favorably impressed with their arrangements. Did not seem to me that they had made themselves as comfortable as possible. French & German art[illery] were firing quite a little. Saw Mayback at the operations in Soissons. Some of the troops are coming in. Wolcott & I had ham & beans in our new Ratskeller and hope the Gen. does not come tomorrow so we can have a house party. Some American nurses near. Wrote to Jo.

Feb 7

Overcast. Went to Rouge Maison and Douamont to see the S.O. 101st Inf. In PM to Soissons to see French S.O. The Gen, Hiatt & Simpkins came so Wolcott & I could not have our party. 4 French officers dined with us.

8 Feb Fri

Overcast. Put in SB at Couvrelles and opened communications with all our P.Cs. Went to P.C. Francinette in PM. Quite a little artillery firing by both sides.

9 Feb Sat

Beautiful day. Inspected billets with the Gen. Laid out telephone scheme for Chateau. Went to P.C. Guy to see Col. Parker in the AM, then to Soissons. Col. Dowell and all of Div Hdqrs arrived.

10 Feb Sun

Beautiful day. Went to all Brigade & Regt P.C.s to fix up the code for messages. 103 had 1 man killed by shell. Our first loss from German fire. Another man wounded. 101st had one man killed by his own Co. He was out in front and did not answer the challenge. Had letters from Jo & Jim. Wrote to Jo.

11 Feb Mon

Fine day. Met Carabin and arranged some business. Also saw Albright and Simkins. Arranged motor dispatch service and telegraph service.

12 Feb Tues

Beautiful day. Worked in the office all forenoon. Met Carabin and Albright in afternoon. Col Chetham and Winship had lunch with us. Miss Parker, Devereux and Johnson, nurses, had dinner with us. A German machine brought down a ballon a short distance from here.

13 Feb Wed

Beautiful day. In office all forenoon. Went to 104 Inf and Sig Bn in PM. Craig made some statements to Col. Bevans derogatory to the way Gen. Edwards is running the Div and the Gen. went to Gen. Liggett to get things straightened out. Knowing him and how mad he was I think he will do it. Wrote to Jo.

14 Feb Thurs

Wolcott & I went to the 22d Div French, Dowell & Mayback to the 61, Hobbs & Stevens to the 21 & Weisell to the Depot Div. We came over at 11:30. Are living at Gen. Cole mess and have a room in a barrack. Called on the French 2nd & 3rd Bureau Officers in the PM. Visited the Corps pigeon loft.

15 Feb Fri

Fine day. Patrol of 104 & French captured a prisoner. He was brought to the 2d Bureau for investigation. Logan & I went to Btry E 102 Art. In PM I went to Hdqrs 102 Art. Met Col Locke whom I knew at Leavenworth in 1906. Bosche aeroplanes were active in the PM and raided Soissons about 8 o'clock. We watched the fireworks which lasted about an hour. Art & M.G. fire all night.

16 Feb Sat

Beautiful day. Went to Soissons. Worked in Signal office all afternoon. There was firing at German machines all day and I saw one start to fall. Lost sight of it so could not tell whether it righted itself or not. Ground is frozen hard and did not thaw any today.

17 Feb Sun

Beautiful day. Intended to go to Couvrelles but Gen Cole said it was H Day so staid at home to see the excitement. The art opened at 1 PM and kept it up until 4. There was very little action by the Germans but their air machines were very busy. They were being fired at all day and I was brought down near Missy. The machine gun was sent to Wolcott. About 8 o'clock the Bosche opened up with a deuce of a barrage and kept it up for an hour and then again in the morning. They did very little damage however, but one shell went through Col. Shelton's auto at his P.C. Wrote to Jo.

18 Feb

Beautiful day. Went to Couvrelles to fix up some papers. Had lunch at the Generals. He said he had something for me to do so I will finish here soon. Heard some bombs burst so guess they have dropped some more on Soissons or some other nearby place. My car caught on fire but we got it out before it burned up.

19 Feb

Beautiful day. Wolcott & I went to Mont de Taubes to see Col Shelton and also inspect things. The Bosche were shelling like the deuce and we made 3 starts before we finally went to the front line. A shell had gone through his car and exploded and put the car on the bum sure enough. Stopped at Baud de Perre on the way back. Wrote to Papa.

20 Feb Wed

Overcast. Went to Soissons. Spent a few minutes in the topographical bureau. The Germans pulled a raid on the 104th Inf last night and lost 1 man killed, 1 captured and beat it back without getting anything. Airplanes were very active and about midnight bombs were dropping and guns were going at a furious rate but I was not curious enough to get up. Received a communication today that seems to indicate that I was appointed a Lieut Col back in August. Hope it is true. It is raining this evening. 104 were raided last night but beat the Bosche off.

21 Feb Thurs

Overcast. Went to Crouy & Couvrelles. Found Voris & Albright in with the Gen. He told me the work he wanted me to do in getting ready to take over the Namoy (Vailly) sector. In PM went to Mt de Leuilly and with the glasses watched the German positions for an hour or more. Went over to see Dowell at night and he thinks he could accept the Lieut Col'cy. Received my uniforms and also a box of things to eat from the Johnsons. Had a letter from Dal. Mama fell and threw her wrist out of place.

22 Feb Fri

Overcast. Accepted the Lieut Col'cy. Voris & Albright came over. We went to Mt de Taubes.

23 Feb Sat

Overcast. Walked to Mt de Leuilly to see the cable line work. Was all ready to return to Couvrelles and Col. Dowell came over and thought that we should stay so here I am but Wolcott went back. Went to Francinette with Gen. Cole.

24 Feb Sun

Overcast. Went to Wauroy & Couvrelles. Had lunch with the Gen. Stopped at Crouy and talked to Dowell & Mayback for a long time. Went back to Couvrelles for a conference with Gen Cole in the evening. Wrote to Jo.

25 Feb Mon

Overcast & rain. Went to Guy and Col. Parker nearly talked me to death. Then went on up to his front line Co. Was not favorably impressed with his men in so far as their instruction is concerned. Got wet and muddy and despite the fact that we arrived at the Bn. just as they were sitting down to eat we were not invited. Some courtesy. Had a look at old Fort Mal Maison which sure is a wreck. A German shell had destroyed an ammunition dump yesterday evening and it was still burning. The dugouts face the enemy absolutely and the more I see of things the less I think of the German as a fighter. Stopped at Crouy after eating bread & jam and plum pudding which we had in the car - and came home with Gen. Cole. It is a full moon tonight. Clear, cold and the aircraft guns are going so the Bosche must be busy.

26 Feb Tues

Beautiful day. Visited the 101st Inf. Went to Chamois for Lt King and visited one Co. P.C. in a large cave. It was not allowed to go to the other Co. in daytime. Had lunch at Chamois with the French Col. and took Lt Jones to visit the right Co. of the 101st. Saw the German avions chase a French ballon down, the observer jumping out in his parachute. The right Co. P.C. is at Ostel in an immense cave. Walked 1 km underground to get to the Signal office. Started to the Co. but the Bosche started shelling so we turned around and beat it. One shell broke so close it threw mud on me. They were also using gas shells and we put on our masks. The avions were very active all day and anti-aircraft guns were kept busy. Saw my 1st casualty today. Shell fragment in head fatal.

27 Feb Wed

Rainy & overcast. Went to Couvrelles and came back by Nauroy, Douamont, Aizy and Temey Sony. Rotten road. Wrote to Jo.

28 Feb Thurs

Rainy. At 9 PM the Bosche put down a barrage on Chavignon sector and sent 3 picked companies across. They were driven back from the trenches but picked up a working party of 10 men. 2 men were killed, 18 wounded and the French lost 6 killed, 18 wounded.

1 March

Cold overcast. Came to Couvrelles to fix up some papers and was told to move back so I moved back in the afternoon.

2 March Sat

Cold & snowing. Worked in office all day.

3 March Sun

Cold. Worked on requisitions for wiring new area. Wrote to Jo, Walt & Jim.

4 March Mon

Cold & snow. Went to Soissons to see Col Carabin. Rode in with Mayback.

5 March Tues

Overcast. Went to Crouy, Juvigny and Clamecy.

6 March Wed

Beautiful day. Went to Billy & Crany. Mayback & I went for a walk to Braine in the afternoon. Had a real bath in the bath tub. Warm water. Gen. Brewster, Inspector, is here.

7 March Thurs

Beautiful day. Went to Nancy with Gen Traub.

8 March

Beautiful day. Gen. Pershing was here. Went to Nauroy with Col Dowell and in the PM to Ostel & Juvigny. Wrote to Jo. Col. Conner & Maj White were here. Air raid over here and Soissons.

9 March Sat

Beautiful day. Went to Nauroy with Col. Dowell. Brewster is investigating us to see if we have complied with orders.

10 March Sun

Beautiful day. Gen. Edwards and his staff had their picture taken. Went to Billy. Bowers saw in the paper that his father had died.

11 March Mon

Beautiful day. Went to Soissons. Car clutch went on the bum and had to stop at shop for an hour. German machines on the way to Paris went over about 9 PM. One was brought down on the way back.

12 March Tues

Beautiful day. Went to Clamecy to see the German machine. It was burned up. I took a couple of pictures. They had 1 bomb unexploded. 2 of the passengers were badly injured, 1 unhurt. Had 4 letters from Jo.

13 March Wed

Went to Crany & Art P.C. with Simpkins. Gen. Lassiter, Col Logan and a French Col had lunch with us.

14 March Thurs

Went to Crany & Billy to see Simpkins and Albright.

15 March

Went to Nauroy. Sent helmet to Jo. Packed up to move.

16 March Sat

Beautiful day. Went to Fort Mal-Maison with Wolcott and McCormick. Cooper took pictures of the Div Hdqrs Force and then some of Gen E, Dowell & I. Pendleton, Mayback and Hobbs left for our new sector. The Bosche shelled the Corps front from 18 to 24 o'clock with gas and shell. Letter to Jo and pictures of staff officers.

St Patricks Day

Beautiful. Left Couvrelles at 9:15 via Soissons, Chateau-Theirry, Epernay, Chalons, Vitry le Francois, Brienne le Chateau to Bar sur Aube. Arrived at 4 o'clock. Ate lunch near Chalons. Beautiful country. Large vineyards. Stopped at Hotel St Andre.

18 March Mon

Beautiful day. Arranged for a phone in Div Hdqrs and in the towns where the Inf. Regt Hdqrs are and separate units are to be. Moved from annex to Hotel. Ford & I joined the girls in the hotel lobby.

19 March

Rain. Afternoon went with the Gen & Simpkins on a reconnaissance trip to Brienne, Joinville and east of the Marne. Covered about 90 miles. The Gen said we had 163 gas casualties from the shelling sat night, 13 serious.

20 March Wed

Rain. Went with the Gen & Nat on another reconnaissance. Had lunch at Joinville. Got home at 4 PM. Had a communication to the effect that my Lieut Col'cy was a mistake. Rats.

21 March Thurs

Reconnoitering all day with Nat and the Gen. Out as far as Montier & Brienne. We heard very heavy firing and thought the big offensive might have started. Rain.

22 March Fri

Good day. The Gen sent me out with Gen. Traub to show him the landscape. Gone all afternoon. Col. Gridcot from Chaumont was down and said the big offensive had started. So that accounts for all the noise we heard yesterday.

23 March Sat

Beautiful day. Worked on field orders all day with the Gen and after dinner he had a conference of all Gen's & Col's to discuss them and the position in readiness but while we were at dinner a telephone message from G.H.Q. stopped the maneuver and ordered us direct to our area.

24 March Sun

Wonderful day. Came to Reynel to start the telephone business. Our living quarters are in a fine old chateau that was once owned by Louis XIV. The family now live in part of it. Went to Rimaucourt and Liffol in PM. Wrote to Jo.

25 March

Fine day. Went to Neufchateau, Chaumont and Bar sur Aube. The Gen had left Bar so I came on to Reynel. Got in at 9:30 cold and hungry and Peters made me some toast and chocolate. Paid my respects to Gen. Liggett but only for a minute. Col. Gibbs told me that he had heard the Div was fine and that the Sig Bn was the best in the line. Saw Magruder for a minute.

26 March Tues

Cold raw wind. Went to Langres to see Kelly, L of C Signal Officer. Had lunch with Pike. Saw Sheldon, McDermott & McMillan. Came home via St Blin to see Albright.

27 March Wed

Fine day. Heingleman & DeWitt were here and we have orders to be ready to move to the front on the 29th. The German drive is going very badly for the Allies. The Gen and all his Hdqrs arrived today.

28 March Thurs

Good day. Went to Andelot to tell Gen Cole about our move to the front. We are to go in on the right of the 1st Div. Then to St Blin & Neufchateau. Bought a waist for Jo and a dress for Palette's baby.

29 March

Good Friday. Went to St Blin and at 5 o'clock to Neufchateau to see Voris. Our orders were changed several times during the day and the last one was that we were to relieve the 1st Div so they could go to the big battle front. The Germans did not gain so much today. Rainy. The Sec of War - Baker - was with us for the afternoon.

30 March Sat

Rainy. The Div began the move to the front by truck. The Gen went to Toul to call on the French Corps Comdr. Albright & Smith went up to go over the sector. Sent the package to Jo. Also a letter to her and Mother. Mrs. Lois Anderson from Washington, Red Cross worker & nurse came to see the Gen. He being in Toul she staid [sic] all afternoon and night. I like her very much except that she smokes cigarettes. Also a big bunch of Mass. politicians here and we had 13 for dinner.

31 March Sun

Raining. Had breakfast with Mrs. Anderson. Left for Boucq our new Hdqrs at 11. Stopped at Treveray to see Dal but he was away. Saw a few old timers. Arrived at Boucq at 4. Went to Menil and had chow with Swartz. Gibbs & Hitt were here when I came.

1 April

Rainy. Jo's birthday. Albright & I went to Jouy & Gironville. Had dinner with him and in PM took Jones to find his outfit. Saw Brewer at Ansauville. Was shelled at Rambucourt. Duke has joined the Div in operations. We had dinner in our mess.

April 2 Tues

Rain. Went to Corineville to see Albright and to Menil to see Swartz. Busy getting us in touch with the telephone system. It looks pretty complicated.

April 3 Wed

Beautiful day. At 8 AM this Div took over command of the sector. Oh joy. Gen. Russell & Col. Gibbs were here. They admitted that I had a man sized job.

April 4

Good day. Went to Toul with Albright.

April 5 Fri

Voris & Davis were down to inspect a cable job. We all went out to Mandres.

April 6 Sat

Overcast. 104 got 2 prisoners last night. Went to Beaumont & Rambucourt. Was shelled in Rambucourt and had to wait 15 minutes in Mandres until shelling stopped on Dead Mans Curve. Pershing was here.

April 7 Sun

Albright & I went around the line to see the cable work. Raids on the 101st & 104 Inf last night. 101st lost 1 wounded & 3 missing. 104 killed 2 Germans & had 1 man wounded. Ansauville was shelled. Wrote to Jo.

April 8 Mon

Rainy. Detailed to inspect strong point at Aguant sub sector tonight. Went to Col. Shelton at 6 o'clock. He had just received word that the 14th Shock Bn had been brought to Hattonville and was to attack some part of the line that night and it was expected to be his line. He sent a guide with me to Bn P.C. and then on to the Co & Platoon. Staid until 7 AM hoping that the raid would come off and afraid that it would. The Germans were busy all night with M.G's and occassional trench mortar & artillery. My driver came to meet me and ran out of gas so I walked until picked up by Col. Shelton. Came from his place with the Gen.

April 9 Tues

Overcast. Wrote up my report and took a nap. Col Keith is fine.

April 10 Wed

Voris came up to inspect the wire left in the area by the 1st Div. Had lunch with us. The Gen went to Chaumont to be examined. They were shelling Beaumont & Rambucourt when we were out there. Saw Bolo Pete at Beaumont. The Bosch made his big raid at 6 this morning. They were beaten off and we got 2 prisoners. Our losses were also heavy. Exact figures not known but about 50 killed & wounded. Overcast

11 April Thurs

The Bosch was active all night & day. The Bn of the 104 that was so roughly handled yesterday in the raid was relieved by another. On the way out Lieut Galvin was killed. He is the platoon comdr I spent the night with when I was out there inspecting. Fine day.

12 April Fri

Fine day. The Bosch attacked on our left at 6 this morning. He took part of our front line. All day we were fighting back and forth. We had a number of casulties and also took 25 prisoners. Lieut Wilcox & 4 men captured 17. We got very meager reports of what is going on. Got a letter from Jo & Fannie and a box of candy from Mother.

13 April Sat

Fine day. The fight still continues and we have not gotten any definite reports. Rumor have it that we have lost some trench. Another Bn of the 104 is reinforcing.

Sun April 14

Fine day. The Gen sent me to P.C. Rabier to see about liasion. Saw 4 dead or wounded being brought out. The first I have seen. Had a talk with Keith and our men are worn to a frazzle. Must be relieved. Shelling was quite heavy. The aero squadron brought down 2 German machines today near Toul.

Mon April 15

Raining. 1 Bn 103 relieved the Bn 104 that was so badly used up. 51 killed, 75 wounded. 102 raided but found no one in the trenches. Hear that the Bosch put on French uniforms and came over and captured a bunch of the 2nd Div. The 32nd Corps cited the Div for its good work.

Tues April 16

Rainy. Gen Allan was here. Said there was to be 160,000 troops arrive this month and the same next month. The Bosch has been rather quiet for a couple of days. The French put over 2 raids last night and got 4 prisoners. Had 10 killed & 70 wounded.

17 April Wed

Overcast. Went around the loop to see the Signal Officers 101 & 102 Inf. The Bosche held up a ration wagon of the 102 last night and helped themselves. Took a prisoner and wounded 1 man. Major joined as C of S.

18 April Thurs

Overcast, cold. Wrote to Jo. Col. Hitt had lunch with me. He, Kumpe, Truesdell & Loghery were here. Sent Jo some Kodak pictures.

19 April Fri

Cloudy & cold. The French Corps Sig Officer was over all forenoon. He is a nuisance. Hope we can sometime run our own show without these blooming French.

There were 2 big barrages last night.

20 April Sat

Overcast & cold. The Bosch put down a barrage at 3 AM and at 5 made a strong attack on our line at Reine Woods & Siecheprey. He took Siechprey and we retook it. The battle raged all day with very heavy artillery action. Latest reports show that we have 190 wounded & 28 missing as none of the dead have been sent in yet we do not know about them but feel sure they are very heavy. 7 machine guns lost and put out. Very heavy shelling on Rambucourt, Beaumont & Mandres. The indications are this evening that he intends a big attack toward Beaumont or Rambucourt.

21 April Sun

Overcast, cold & raw. Col. Keith, Mackall & I went to Beaumont. Parker told us of the fight in so far as he knew. In PM Keith & I went to Seicheprey. The town is pretty well shot up but no dead Germans in sight. Saw an Art O.P. that had been hit by a shell. It was wrecked and 3 were killed. The Hun shelled us our way out. Saw 2 dead horses and 2 ambulances that were shot off the road. Voris and Truesdell were here. Wrote to Jo.

22 April Mon

Rain. Wrote a new code & worked in the office. Had letter from Jo.

23 April

Went to Beaumont. Car on the bum again. Bosche has been quiet for a couple of days. Albright's order for the 1st Corps school came. Sorry to lose him.

24 April Wed

Went with Albright to look over some work at Ereville & Viguot that we are doing for the French Corps. Voris & Kumpe were here. A new Cadillac car arrived for me. Whoop La. Rain. Major Sherburne is coming to take Albright's place.

25 April Thurs

Sent Bowes to Runaucourt to get my trunk. Worked in the office all day.

26 April Friday

Rain & overcast. Went to Vigot & Rabier in the PM to see a dugout for a central at Ronval. A prisoner captured by the 10th Colonial said the Bosch was preparing for a big projector gas attack in the Bois Bruley. Wrote Jo. Col. Gibbs was here. Had my first ride in the new car.

27 April Sat

Overcast. Took Gibbs out to look over the cable job. Very quiet. Not a shot. Albright left. Truesdell & I went to Fort Gironville & Vigot to inspect the line being installed.

28 April Sun

Overcast & rain. Gen. Pasaga decorated the 104 Inf. It is the first regt to be decorated. It was on the plateau above Boucq. 117 men including dead & vacancies of men not able to be there. Wrote to Jo. 4 visiting firemen down from G.H.Q. to learn about telephones etc.

29 April Mon

Overcast, some sun. The Army Sig officer came to inspect our cable work. It took all afternoon. Our aviators brought down a machine this evening.

30 April

Fine day. Col. Gibbs, Wallace & Repp were here. Took Wallace around Dead Mans Curve. Truesdell & I went P.C. Rabier in PM. The girls of the Salvation Army sent us some doughnuts.

1 May Wed

Overcast. Went to Toul. Wrote to Jo. Expect attack on Jarny woods.

2 May Thurs

Fine day. Phoned Voris. He told me that Ormsby was there on his way here to command the field Batt. Truesdell & I went to Ansauville & Mandres to look over the work. Duke & Maybach are ordered home. Dravo was here all night. Gen Ragueau, head of the French Mission was here for lunch. He told us that we are to be relieved in 10 days and go to the 4th area for a couple of weeks training and then up to the big fight. The 1st Div is in it and the 18th has lost 81 killed. The Lieut Col & 1 Capt Brewer also goes home. Frederick Palmer was here for dinner.

3 May Fri

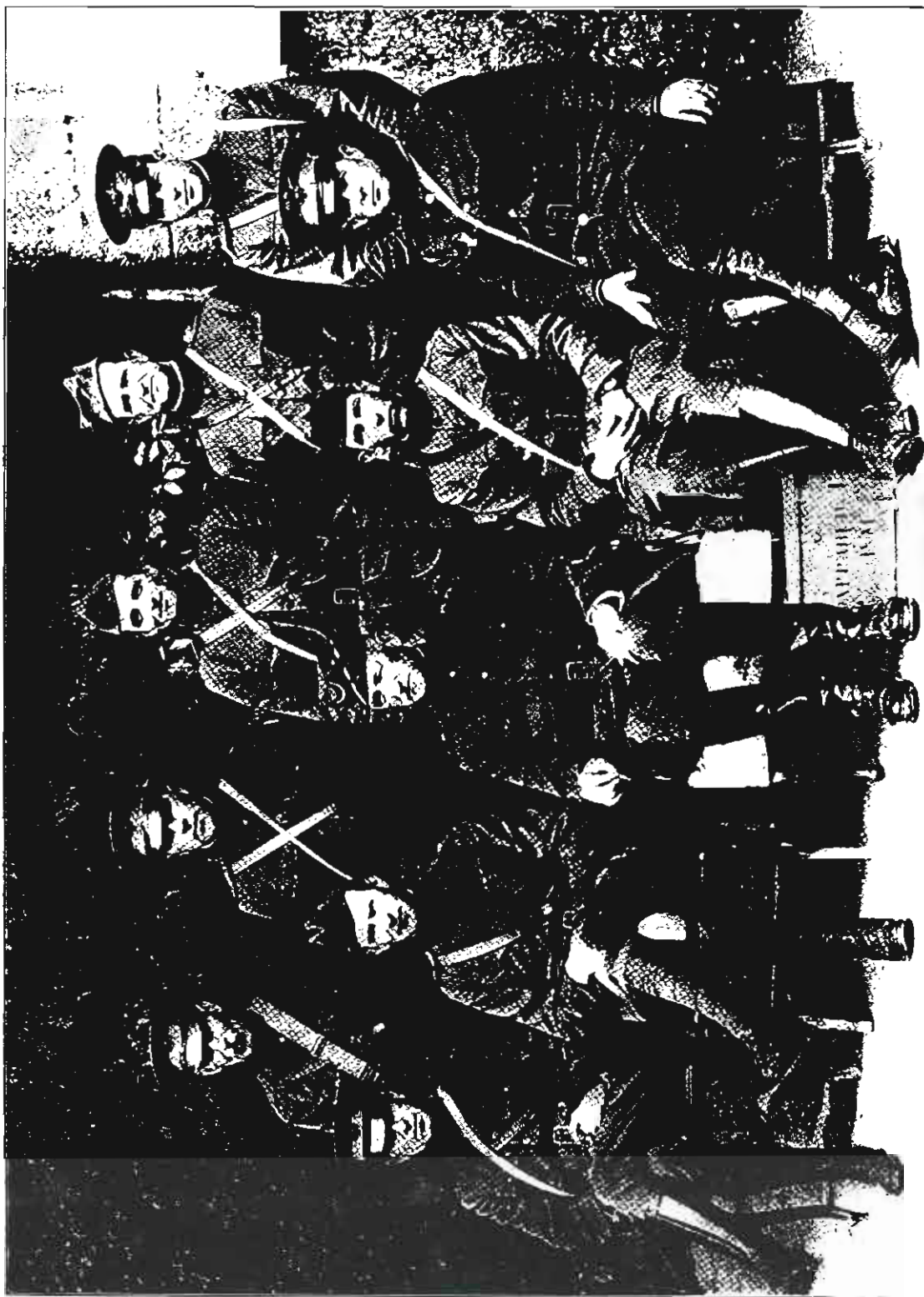
Fine day. Duke went back to Corps Hdqrs. Went to Aulnois & Ereville to see about the work.

4 May Sat

Fine day. Went to Toul to buy some paint. We lost an aviator today. 3 of our machines attacked 4 of the Bosche and 1 of each was brought down. Our order for relief seems to have been changed. Cooper took a picture of the staff.

5 May Sun

Overcast & rain. Hiatt & I went to Aulnois to see Parker and in the PM we went to Troyon to see Gen. Murray. Had dinner with him. He is ordered home and feels very badly over it. Saw Bessell and Herbst at Sommedieue. Letter from Jo.



Major-General Edwards and Staff, 26th Division, Headquarters, Boucq, France, May 3, 1918 Standing, left to right: Lieut. R. C. Peters; Capt. Nathaniel Simpkins, A.D.C.; Capt. Oliver Wolcott, A.D.C.; Maj. S. T. Mackall; Maj. A. L. Pendleton, Jr. Sitting, left to right: Capt. John W. Hyatt, A.D.C.; Lieut.-Col. Duncan K. Major, Jr., C. of S.; Maj.-Gen. Clarence R. Edwards; Lieut.-Col. W. A. Alfonte, C.S.O., and Maj. Alfred A. Maybach, G.S., Assistant C. of S.

6 May

Overcast. Mayback left for U.S. Wrote to Jo. Hall, aviation, was here to arrange a drill scheme in liaison.

7 May Tues

Truesdell & I went to Rambucourt to see the cable job. In PM to Jouy, Gironville and O.P.28. In a fight between our Chasse squadron and a Bosche squadron Capt. Hall was killed. Fine day, thunder & rain storm in evening.

8 May Wed

Overcast. Maj Taylor S.O. Heavy Art came over to see me. The Labor committee were to have come this afternoon but it was too late and they went to Chaumont. We heard from the 32d Corps that they thought the Bosch were withdrawing from in front of us and that large patrols were to be sent out to gain touch with the enemy. Had a letter from Jo. Wrote to Jo.

9 May Thurs

Overcast & fog. Our patrols found that the Bosche are still in the positions in front of us but could not determine how strong they were. We have 3 men missing from 1 patrol. Went to Ronval & Sorcy. The 10th Colonials are to pull a big raid tonight. Had a box of dates and candy from Helen Narbonne.

10 May Fri

Overcast & rain. Sat on G.C.M. all day. Trial of Maj. Gallant. Projector gas attack on Bruley woods last night. About 150 casualties. The Gen is rather depressed. Gen. Russell, Col. Gibbs & Voris were here but I did not get to see them.

11 May Sat

Overcast & rain. G.C.M. of Maj Gallant. Wrote to Jo, Mother & Dal.

12 May Sun

Overcast & rain. Detailed for inspection of sub-center Inde. Left at 2:15 and went via Jouy & Gironville to Rabier. Arrived at Capt's P.C. at 5 o'clock and spent the night with Lieut Nusser in the front line Queprothe (sic) trench. Quiet night. Arrived home at 8 AM.

13 May Mon

Overcast. Gibson from G.H.Q. was here looking up replacements. Had a letter and box of clothing from Jo.

14 May Tues

Overcast. Walinsky, Truesdell & I went to Rambucourt to survey a cable route to Raubecourt. Saw 3 of our observation planes go over the Bosch lines and get fired on. They came back over us and one of them fell head on. Both men were horribly mangled. Do not know the cause.

15 May Wed

Fine day. Voris was here. Truesdell left. Wrote to Jo & Helen N. 6 Herron sisters gave entertainment for soldiers at Y.M.C.A.

16 May Thurs

Beautiful day. Went to Domevre to arrange about extending our sector to the right. We also give up some on the left. Went to Jouy in PM. Miss Prescott,

Y.M.C.A., sister in law of Simpkins was here for dinner. She is pretty as a speckled pup.

17 May Fri

Beautiful day. Inspected cable and Ansauville and Rambucourt. Letter from Jo.

18 May

Beautiful day. 41 years old. Gee whiz. Too old. Surveyed cable route Raucourt to Rambucourt. Awfully warm. Letters from Walt and Johnson.

19 May Sun

Beautiful day. Shower in afternoon. Went to Vertuzey with Cooper to see the Herron sisters. They were late and we started to leave and met them and Cooper went back with them. Lufberry of the Lafayette squadron was killed this evening at Maconcourt near here. Also a Frenchman and a German. It has been a long lonesome day. Wrote to Jo. Col. Sturman, ex Sect of War, is staying with us.

20 May Mon.

Beautiful day. Inspected cable job at Ansauville. Voris was here this PM and we went to Tremblicourt.

21 May Tues

Fine weather. Went to Raulecourt & Ansauville to look after cable job. Elsie Janis, her mother and John Kendrick Bangs were here for dinner. Elsie is some live wire. Letter from Jo & Stanley.

22 May Wed

Fine weather. Looked over cable job. Sent the Gelage to Albright. Saw Elsie Janis at Rehainne woods entertaining a big bunch of men.

23 May Thurs

Fine day. Shower in evening. Gibbs and Voris were here in morning. Elsie & Mother were here for lunch. Entertained the soldiers at 3 PM. Lieut Barnaby & 2 other aviators were killed.

24 May

Cool, fine day. Shower in evening. Went to cable job and laid out new job at the Brigade P.C. Army Sig Officer was here to see me.

25 May Sat

Cool fine day. Inspected cable work at Ansauville & Rambucourt. Went out to see the Bn of 101st training for the raid. Had a cablegram from Jo. 1 year ago today we got the telegram that the 18th was designated for foreign service. It seems only a short time. We have 511,000 men over here. Lost an aviator today by Bosche fire. Heard that we are to get an American sector as soon as we have 6 fighting divisions here. There seems to be quite a lot of apprehension as to the outcome of the German drive that is expected to start about June 1st.

26 May Sun

Overcast. Wrote to Jo & Mother. Elsie Jones & Mother were here for lunch &

Wolcott & I went to Lucay to hear her. She was fine. Heard today that we are to be relieved before June 5th for a rest and then up to the big fight. Also that the 3rd Div will relieve us. There is some apprehension as to the outcome of this next drive.

27 May Mon

Fine day. Bosche raided 101st sector at Flirey last night and were beaten off. We had about 30 wounded & gassed and 5 killed. They left about 30 killed in our wire. Went over cable job. Got the trench digger going at Rambucourt. Our avions brought down 2 German machines.

28 May Tues

Overcast, fine day. Voris, Kumpe & Smith of the 1st Army Field Bn were here. Went over the cable job and to Poirel. A German ballon broke loose and floated over our lines. Sent deed to Stanley. Had letters from Jo & Mother. One of our airplanes stuck on its nose down at the foot of the hill and Pendleton, Simpkins & I went to see it. Nobody was hurt. The Bosch is still gaining and it looks pretty bad.

May 30 Thurs

Beautiful day. Went to Camp Burly and to see the trench digger. It is going fine. Soissons has been evacuated and the Bosch has not stopped yet. Looks bad for the railroad through Chateau Thierry. Raid comes off tonight. Hope we have good luck. 1st Div attacked and took Cantigny yesterday & 187 prisoners.

31 May Fri

Fine day. Wonderful experience last night. Never heard such a noise as the barrage. Was gassed slightly and have to go to the hospital. Only got 1 prisoner and 1 M.G. on the raid. More than 200 of our men were gassed either from our own gas or from gas that we blew up in the German dugouts. Helped carry 2 men back to the dressing station and all the time I was so weak I could barely stand. Saw 1 man all cut to pieces on the way out.

June 1 - 17

In Field Hospital. Gassed. Did not suffer any. Had wonderful time with the nurses. Sat up in bed on the 4th and walked around in the ward on the 5th. Had a relapse or the 3 day fever and felt rotten for the next 3 days, then got up again. Took 4 nurses for an auto ride to Mandres and on the wood road to Boucq. They saw German shells bursting and had a wonderful time. Boucq, Comneville & Royaumeix were shelled & bombed on the night of the 15th and on the 16th.

17 Monday

Raining. Lieut Dunn, Schomaker & Bennet were released with me and I took them all to their stations. The Gen. said he was glad to have me back. We are to be relieved by the 82 American & 154 French Divs. Expect to go to Chateau-Thierry.

18 June Tues

Fine day. Col. Gibbs & Col. Hemphill, S.O. 82nd Div were here. I took Hemphill to Toul and saw Miss Wells on the street. Got chevrons for my blouse. Heard that Col. Maxey was killed. Col. Shelton was wounded.

19 June Wed

We put over a projector gas attack at 2:30 AM and at 3:15 the Bosch shelled Boucq and kept it up until 8:30. Killed 1 man, wounded 1 and killed 9 horses. He also attempted a small raid in Remieres wood and was beaten off with several killed and 1 prisoner. The morning of the 16th he attempted a raid on Tivray by 600 men and they were cut all to pieces with M.G. fire and lost 13 prisoners. Wrote to Jo. Rain & sun. All Hdqrs moved to Trondes but me.

20 June Thurs

Rain. The 82nd Div is in to relieve us. They have no machine guns, artillery or engineers. There are German spies using pigeons from the woods above Boucq. They released 4 pigeons the morning the bombardment was on and one today which my pigeon sgt. shot. It had a practice message on.

21 June Fri

Fine day. Took Walinsky & Tambois to Toul this PM to meet the Corps and 82nd & 154th Div Sig Officers. Went to the hospital for a few minutes and saw a couple of nurses. A Bosch avion dropped a message for the 42d Div "Good Bye 42nd, Welcome 77th".

22 June Sat

Rainy. Took Hemphill, Walinsky & Busch over the sector. Walinsky ordered to the 80 Div as S.O. Evans comes here. Gen. Cole had lunch with us. Wrote to Cutie.

23 June Sun

Rain & sun. Went to Toul to Hdqrs 82nd Div to meet the Signal Officer. Then they came to my office. Wrote to Jo. Quite cold all day.

24 June

Nice day. Evans arrived, Walinsky left. A flock of new Signal officers were here this morning. The Austrians are retreating in Italy. Gen. Traub was in for dinner, Col Parker for lunch. French on our right put over a raid at 24 o'clock and got 6 prisoners. Had 4 killed & 27 wounded.

25 June

Fine day. Hemphill was over in the AM & went to Menil & Toul in PM. Went to hospital to see Miss Wells for half an hour. The relief is being effected. Hope the Bosch keeps quiet until it is completed.

26 June Wed

Fine day. Commercy was shelled last night and this morning. The 77th Div was pretty badly handled in a couple of Bosch raids. Italians have hit the Austrians pretty hard on the Piane. Over 200,000 casualties. May have some influence on the German offensive on the Somme. Maj Evans had dinner with us. Wrote to Jo.

27 June Thurs

Fine day. Col. Hemphill & S.O. of 154th Div were over. Went to Toul to 32 Corps in PM and to the opening performance of the 26th Div shows in the evening. Came in just in time to find Gen. Morlaincourt moving and he had all my bedding on a truck. The show was fine and I did not get home until after 24

o'clock. The Bosch bombed the aviation field and were over Toul 2 times. Dropped 1 bomb on R.R. station. Col Milling and a British aviator were seriously injured at the aviation field and 2 men of the 104 Inf at Pagny were wounded by shrapnel from the anti-aircraft guns.

28 June Fri

Fine day. Moved to Toul. Visited the Regt P.C. with Sibley, correspondent, in PM. Took a bunch of nurses for a ride in the evening. We now have orders to go to a town near Paris. Oh Joy.

29 June Sat

Fine day. Col. Major had to go to the hospital to have his arm cut open for an abcess or something of the sort. Went to see him in PM. The Gen and Hiatt & Simpkins went to Nancy for lunch. Col Haskell & Ulio had lunch with me. The Gen left for our new Hdqrs at 4 PM. Had letters from Jo, Mother & Jim. Wrote to Jo. The Bosche were over and dropped bombs someplace near and Boucq was shelled again.

30 June Sun

Fine day. Left Toul at 9:20. Lieut Peters came with me. Had lunch at Vitry le Francois and when we arrived at Pantin and found out that we had 50 kil more to go and only a gal of gas left we went to Paris for gas. Had supper and drove around town a poco and then came on to Nauteuil-les-Meaux. Arrived at 11 PM and took an hour to find a place to sleep. The Bosch avions were over 2 or 3 times and anti avion guns were going all night. They bombed Meaux.

1 July Mon

Fine day. Hot. Went to La Ferte to see Voris but he was out. The Gen & Aides arrived. Anti aircraft guns were firing all night and this place & Meaux were bombed. They sure make some noise. Very warm.

2 July Tues

Fine hot weather. Went to see Voris and he took me to see Albright whom I am to relieve in a few days. They made an attack yesterday evening and gained their objective and took 500 prisoners. Their losses have been very heavy here and we are to take the sector and give them a rest. A year ago today I landed in St Nazaire. Wrote to Jo and sent her the income tax return.

3 July Wed

Fine day. Went to Meaux for gas and to and to La Ferte and St Cyr. Received orders entitling me to wear wound chevrons.

4 July Thurs

Does not seem like our "Fourth". Went to Albright at Montreuil and arranged for the relief of his Signal Bn by my Bn.

5 July Fri

Went with the Gen & Hyatt to locate Hdqrs. In PM took Simpkins to Montreuil to see Smith about scheme for wiring the new Hdqrs. The Sig Bn moves to Montreuil tonight. At 7:15 the Gen told me we were to move to the 2nd position in anticipation of a big German attack on Chateau Thierry. The French were very much excited, reported 30 divisions and 400 planes concentrated for the

attack.. Left at 9:30 and caught the Sig Bn at La Ferte. Changed their destination to Tanguiaux and had to wait until 3: AM before we could get across the bridge over the Marne. A French Div was coming from the front.

6 July Sat

Fine day. Got no sleep at all. Had breakfast at 5 and went to work on the telephone scheme. Hdqrs are in a chateau in Chamigny. Spent most of the day going over the area and in the evening the alert was called off and the relief of the 2nd Div goes ahead.

7 July

Fine day. Sun. Went to Montreuil and saw Albright and went over his area with him. Had lunch at his mess. Saw some enlisted men I knew at Fort Bliss in I Co. Sig Corps. Wrote to JO.

8 July Mon

Fine day. Went to La Ferte and over sector.

9 July Tues

Fine day. Went to Montreuil twice and to La Ferte. Gen. Bundy & Col. Brown had dinner with us. Traub is promoted to Major General.

10 July Wed

Fine day. Moved to Montreuil and Hdqrs to Genevrois farm. Command of the sector passed to Gen. Edwards at 8 AM. Gen Bundy moved to Chamigny. Saw Maj Brewer. 3 letters from Jo. Wrote to Jo.

11 July Thurs

Fine weather. Went to see Voris. Have to move Hdqrs to Mary which means 2 1/2 miles of line of 10 circuits to build. Col Bugge and a bunch of visiting firemen were to lunch.

12 July Fri

Went to Chamigny, La Ferte and Mary. Gen. Pershing was here and decorated some men. A small raid of 40 Bosch broke down in front of the 103 Inf.

13 July Sat

Rain. Mackall & I went out to the 103rd Inf. Visited all 3 Bn's and they are living like rats each man with a little hole in the ground. Shells were bursting close to us on the way back. Col. Major & Howard were in the 102d Inf & Howard was wounded by a small piece of shell in the back.

14 July Sun

Rain & sun. Visited Howard at the hosp and saw my nurses. Had a long talk with Miss Wells. Stopped to see Albright.

15 July Mon

Fine day. Heavy bombardment all night. A Bn attacked Vaux and were driven off by 101st Inf. We took 18 prisoners. The big attack was started from Chateau Thierry to near Verdun. The French were driven back and the 3rd Div held but they had to fall back on account of the French. They counter attacked and took about 500 prisoners. Div Hdqrs moved back to Mary.

16 July Tues

Fine day. The guns were going all night. Attack of 1 Regt against 101st Inf was beaten off. We have had 500 gas casualties the last two days. The big attack came just where we have heard for several days that it would come and as it has made very little progress it looks like a failure for the Bosch. Traub, Shelton and Mr. & Mrs. Rosch (French owners of the chateau where we are living) were in for lunch. Bosch bombed La Ferte last night and destroyed the R.R. station.

17 July Wed

Some rain. I went to Mary. All the bridges near here were shelled last night. The Bosch is not making very much headway in his big drive. Went to La Ferte to see Voris. Also meet the Sig's of 103 & 104 Inf at Brigade Hdqrs and mapped a scheme of liaison for the attack in the morning. Gen. Cole and Shelton were in for dinner and we are now to have 3 Batts in the attack instead of 2. Went back to the Brigade and it was pouring rain and so dark we did not get there until 11. Met the Signal Officers and then I read until 3:15 and went to La Voie de Chatel 103 Inf. Saw the start of the Big Show at 4:35 on the dot.

18 July Thurs

Fine day. Came home at 7 AM. Torcy had been taken & Belleau a little later. Good reports came in all day and this evening the French are fighting in Soissons and have taken prisoners and many cannon. Cooper went over with the 103rd Inf. Captured 4 prisoners in a shell hole and brought them & 3 others in to Hdqrs. We expect to move forward in the morning.

19 July Fri

Fine day. The French on our left are stopped by machine guns. We are not trying to advance. Went to La Ferte and to the 103 & 104 Inf.

20 July Sat

Fine day. Gen Pershing, Treat, Wright, Craig, Shelton, Cole, Sherburne and Brewster were here. The attack was resumed at 3 PM. I went to an O.P. and watched the French trying to take hill 193 at Belleau. They did not take it. Message center moved to Montgivault and after getting home from doing that at 12 o'clock got word that there would be an advance at 1:30 with the 102 Inf and 102 M.G. Co as advance guard, and after that was under way Div Hdqrs was ordered to Lucy-le-Bocage. Was on that the rest of the night and here I am with no sleep. We seem to be making good progress.

21 July Sun

Beautiful day. With my bedding roll and the Cadillac I moved to Lucy. Got the office wired up. Evans & I walked to Picardy farm and Etrepilly where our carts were running lines. Got back at 1 and Hdqrs were under orders to move to Pilardie. Left in machine at 3 and was busy all evening trying to get lines to the Brigades. Slept a few hours in the back seat of the car.

22 July Mon

Fine day. Spent the morning trying to locate the 52 Hdqrs. Established. Was at Bequet and was sniped at with a 77. Never had them so close. Tried to get some wire to Col. Parker near Epieds but struck too many machine guns. Found an abandoned M.G. the the Bosche left and brought it home. We received a

message that the Bosche had broken our line with tanks and the Gen. sent me out to investigate. I got back at 22 o'clock. Saw M.G. & battery action and rockets but no signs of tanks. Slept in machine. M.G. fire has held up all day.

23 July Tues

Rain. Attack is making some headway. The Div is all in and our losses have been very heavy. Have a boil under my arm and the B'ache. Gen. Weigle 56 Brigade was here. They are attached to the Div temporarily.

24 July Wed

Fine day. The Gen sent me to Gen Weigle to urge the troops forward and I went on to Col. Shannon. Staid with him all day and succeeded in getting his regiment forward about 7 kilometers to Croix Rouge Farm where we struck M.Gs. and trench mortars. 3 men killed & 6 wounded and I could not get him to take any action other than stopping for the night. I returned and found that an order for the advance had been received. Pershing was here and complimented the Div.

25 July Thurs

Fine day. The advance was not resumed on account of the 42nd Div coming in to relieve us. Ran a line from Courpail to the Lake and was shelled by the hwy. Saw 4 men wounded. Had my boil cut. Feel rotten. Got into mustard gas.

26 July Fri

Rain. The Div was relieved at 7 PM. Mackall & I went to Chateau-Thierry and La Ferte. It looks different from what it did when I saw it in March on my way back from Soissons.

27 July

Rain. Felt rotten. Sent a helmet to Jo. Mackall & I went for a walk to Etrepilly.

28 July 28 Sun

Fine day. Went to Genevois from Nauteuil and stopped at the hospital to see Miss Wells. Saw the Chief Nurse and Miss Higanbotham. The wounded were pouring in the hospital.

29 July Mon

Fine day. Went to Beguet to see Knowles about training. Saw a French machine burn up. The aviator was shot through the leg. Mackall & I went to Cougoie & Beauardes and Hdqrs moved back to Mary. I found my trunk broken open and everything I own stolen.

30 July Tues

Fine day. Mackall & I went to Danmartin to see the 1st Div. Found that they had left the day before and the 2nd Div was entraining, destination unknown. Miss Prescott here for dinner.

31 July Wed

Fine day. Mackall & I spent the day looking for target ranges. Col. Major goes to the 104th Inf. Hobbs to the 102nd and Parker to S.O.S.

1 Aug Thurs

Fine day. Went to Messy to see Evans and in the afternoon Mackall & I went to Epieds to the Corps. Col DeChambra, French Mission, and Col. Mitchell & Winship here for dinner. Maj Ristine came for duty in G-2. Gen. Joffre & Petain sent souvenir pipes in appreciation of the work the Div did.

2 Aug Fri

Rain. Went to Messy and in evening Mackall & I walked to Saacy & Nauteuil.

3 Aug Sat

Rain & sun. Mackall, Zimmerman & I went to Paris. Rode all over the city and viewed the things of interest and left about 4 o'clock. Had an auto accident coming home and was bruised up but got off lucky.

4 Aug Sun

Fine day. Went to Messy. Evans is sick with B'ache. The Gen came back from Paris. We have word that we are to go back near Toul. The 1st & 2nd Divs are there now. The Bosch has lost Soissons and is retreating. Wrote to Jo & Mother.

5 Aug Mon

Rain. Capt Hobbs & I visited all the Inf. regiments to inspect instructions. Mackall & I walked to Saacy & over the hill. Sent helmets to Veitch & Walt.

6 Aug Tues

Rain. Mackall & I went to Corps Hdqrs at Fere-en-Tardenois. It poured down rain. Saw many evidences of the recent fighting. Dead horses, caissons, ammunition and German graves. Col. Stimson, Major Bacon & two Hoyt sisters (YMCA) were here for dinner. The girls sang for us after dinner. Hobbs & Major have their Colonelcies.

7 Aug

Fine day. Mackall, Simpkins, Sachs, Cooper, Zimmerman & I went to Paris. Saw the war pictures taken by Cooper at the laboratory. Too many good looking chickens. Stopped at the Army on the way home and heard that we are Lieut Cols. Gen Aultman & Col Locke & Glassford were here for dinner. Big Bertha was firing on Paris while we were there.

8 Aug Thurs

Rain. Went to Messy & to see Col Hitt at 1st Army Hdqrs.

9 Aug Fri

Fine day. The Gen & Hiatt went to Paris. Elsie Jones came and gave an entertainment on the chateau grounds. She, her mother & Miss Prescott were here for dinner and then the Div minstrels gave an entertainment on the lawn. I sat on the ground in front of the stage with Elsie, her mother & Pendleton and the jokes were pretty rough. Elsie & her mother stayed all night.

10 Aug Sat

Beautiful day. Went to Fer-en-Tardenois in afternoon to see Craig. Met the 77 Div going up to relieve the 4th. Elsie went to the 42nd and gave an entertainment and came back for dinner and stayed all night. She is fine and I like her more the better I know her.

11 Aug Sun

Beautiful day. We started Elsie off for Toul at 9:45. Order came for our entrainment. We think we are going to the Toul sector. The Gen came home at noon and told me to issue an order detailing myself as Chief of Staff but under orders received from the Corps since he was away it could not well be done. Hate to be beaten out of that position. Then he was going to send me to the 102 Inf and the same thing stopped that. Our move begins on the 13th and I go ahead as regulating officer.

12 Aug Mon

Fine day. Peters & I ordered to regulating station and waited all day trying to find out from the French where it was. At 5 o'clock we got word that we would find out at Montmirail so at 6 o'clock we started. Found out that it was to be at Bricon near Chaumont and we went on to Sezanne and stayed all night. I was sick as the deuce.

13 Aug Tues

Fine day. Passed through Troyes, Bar sur Seine & Chatillon and met Bowen in Bricon. Had all the billeting information for him. Slept a few hours on the back seat of the auto waiting for the 1st train to arrive.

14th, 15th, 16th

Watched the trains go by. No sleep except a few winks here and there. Saw some hospital trains pass through and they were gorgeous.

17th Sat

Fine day. Left Bricon 10 o'clock. Arrived in Mussy at 12. Got settled in a billet with a fine old lady 64 years old. Col Cowan was here to see me.

Sun Aug 18

Fine day. Opened office. Went to Field Bn. Capt Johnson S.O.S. came down with plan of telephone system.

Mon Aug 19

Fine day. Went to Batt and then to 104th Inf to see the instructions of signalmen.

Tues Aug 20

Fine hot day. Terrain exercise. Met Fox Herron and Gen. Barth. Going to dinner with Cooper.

Aug 22 Thurs

Awfully hot. Went to Chamesson. Had a dinner to celebrate the organization of the Div and two Frenchmen and 2 girls gave a concert and then came to the house and performed for us. They were very good.

Aug 23 Fri

Hot. Small shower. Went to Chamesson.

Aug 24 Sat

Overcast. Terrain exercise under the 6th Corps. Saw many old friends.

Sun Aug 25

Overcast. Hyatt, Cooper & I went Ainay-le-Duc & Recey to see the 80 Div. Saw Col Warrillow & Walinsky.

26 Aug Mon

Fine day. Went to Recey and Laigne. Heard that we are to move the 28th. 2 letters from Jo saying Sam is married.

27 Aug Tues

Fine day. Went to Chamesson & Chatillon. Order here for our move. Ordered to go to a distant regulating point.

28 Aug

Fine day. Lt Cambell & I left at 7 AM via Chatillon, Bar-sur-Aube, Joinville, Houdelaincourt, Ligny to Bar le Duc. Stopped 1 hour in Houdelaincourt and talked with Mademoiselle Jean. Stopped at 1st Army Hdqrs at Ligny to locate the 5th Corps then went to Benoitevaux to see about billeting area for Div. Saw Gen. Burt and got a copy of the order. Went back to Bar le Duc & saw Col Major & Bowen.

29 Aug Thurs

On duty at detraining point at Ligny as regulating officer.

30 Aug Fri

Rain. Relieved as regulating officer and came to Sommedieue to get busy on the telephone system. Stopped at the Corps and saw Brockman and saw the French Div S.O. at Genicourt. Major Evans & Smith ordered home.

Aug 31 Sat

Rain. Went to Bar le Duc and to the Bn at Tannois. Evans & Smith can be held until emergency is over.

1 Sept Sun

Went over sector with French Div S.O. Capt Loghery was here on radio business.

2 Sept Mon

Fine day. Hobbs & I went to Bn Bebrain. Smith & some B Co men moved to Sommediene.

3 Sept Tues

Fine day. Sent Hobbs to Corps & Div on our left for maps. I worked on scheme of liaison. We are to have tanks in our attack and they come to the 26th Div.

4 Sept Wed

Fine day. Went to O.P.4 with Hiatt & Dewey. Wonderful view over the Bosch lines towards Metz & Conflans. Rumors that we are (to) move south about five kilometers for our section of the attack.

5 Sept Thurs

Rain. Peters, Cooper & I went to Bar-le-Duc. Div Hdqrs moved to Rupt-en-Woevre after dark. We take over this sector.

6 Aug (sic) Fri

Rain. Hiatt & I reconnoitered for dugouts here and at Genicourt. Lack of protection here necessitates moving to Genicourt. Saw the Army order for the attack. It contemplates 22 hour artillery preparation.

7 Aug (sic) Sat

Fine day. Much aerial activity. Went to Corps for some information.

8 Sept Sun

Rain. Went to the Corps and on to Souilly. Gave two nurses a ride on the way home.

9 Sept Mon

Rain. Worked on plan of liaison for defense of sector. Also finished plan for attack of positions.

Tues 10 Sept

Rain. Went to Corps about telephone circuits. They have taken over every line in the sector which is the rottenest way of getting service that I know. Do not expect any kind of service at all.

Wed 11 Sept

Rain. We have been given the hour and all arrangements have been made so a few hours sleep will not be amiss. Wrote to Jo.

Thurs 12 Sept

Some rain & overcast. Artillery opened heavy fire at 1 AM. As there was no retaliation I slept in my bed. The Gen and all the G's moved up to the dugouts on the hill. In the forenoon went to Mouilly and on up to the front along the Axis of Liaison. The fight was going pretty well. Road is in awful shape where the trenches were and across no mans land. In PM went again and went forward to where the 101st Inf was held up by M.G. fire. Left them at 4:30 with Major Jones and walked to Mouilly and from there home by auto. At 7:30 the Gen. got an order to push on to Vigneulles with all speed possible and spare not a drop of energy. He selected the 102d Infantry to lead. As his Chief of Staff was out he phoned the order to his Brigade Commanders. At the dinner table he was worrying about the order reaching Gen. Shelton so I asked him if he would like for me to go out to the 102d and see that the urgency of the situation was understood. He said for me to go so **WHOO LA**. Took the chauffeur along and we walked until 12:20 before we caught up with Col Bearse. He was glad I came and understood the necessity of the rush. As we came out of the woods Hattonchattel and Vigneulles were on fire and from Hattonchattel it was a wonderful sight to see towns all over the valley burning. Also dumps of material. We pressed on to Vigneulles and the Col ordered the dispositions he wanted made and while the troops were coming up I suggested to the Col that we might find a good building in which to spend the night. We walked to the main street and as I stepped around the corner to where I could see down the street it was full of soldiers & wagons. I realized in a few seconds that they were Bosche and pulled my pistol and yelled **HALT**. There were but four of us, the Col, Capt Oberlin, my chauffeur & I & the Col had no gun. Oberlin (sic) yelled hands up in German and they were so surprised they surrenderd. Luck was with us for there was a building burning behind them and they very easily seen but

we were more or less in the dark from them. Anyway we got quite a bunch of them and all their wagons and plunder including several machine guns. Then we found a house full of them asleep and the patrols out on the cross roads were sending them in all night. This rush was to cut off their retreat from the St Mihiel salient. Just after we stopped the German wagon train an old French lady came from her hiding place and was so tickled it was pitiful. She hugged and kissed my driver and shook hands with everyone. Later other women appeared and were simply too happy to express it. We arrived at Vigneulles at 2:40.

13 Sept Friday

Had corned beef, cabbage and coffee with Major Murphy for breakfast and it was pretty good at that. Gee I was tired but at 9:40 Toser & I started to walk back and I never saw such a long road in my life. We reached our car at 2:30 and were soon home. The Gen was well pleased that our Div beat the 1st Div to Vigneulles. We captured 800 prisoners, much material and many machine guns.

14 Sept

Fine day. Went by auto over the road that was so long yesterday and through the towns at the foot of the hills. There were many evidences of the hasty get away of the Bosche. Also much material and supplies left behind. We now have orders to take a sector further to the north and organize it for resistance. The Priest of Rupt-en-Woevre, our headquarters for the time being - came to the General today and wanted permission to ring the church bells. Said it would be the first time in 4 years. The 1st Div claim they were in Vigneulles before we were but they are wrong as evidenced by the Germans we caught there.

15 Sept Sun

Beautiful day. Went to Souilly and to Ancemont and in the afternoon Simpkins & I went over the captured territory. Collecting things of interest. Saw much material the Bosche had abandoned. Also saw some firing machine guns at our Infantry. In the evening one of them fired at the men in the street in our town and some of the bullets hit my office. We are now under French command again and are to organize the sector for defense. Wrote to Jo.

16 Sept Mon

Beautiful day. Went to Corps Hdqrs. In the afternoon we moved our Headquarters to Troyon. Avions were bombing tonight.

17 Sept Tues

Overcast. Hiatt & I went to St Mihiel and back by the 1st Div. I saw the Q.M. and drew pay for my horse. Did not see Dal. Col Dowell & Wolcott came to the Div today as G-3 and Col Bowen left.

18 Sept Wed

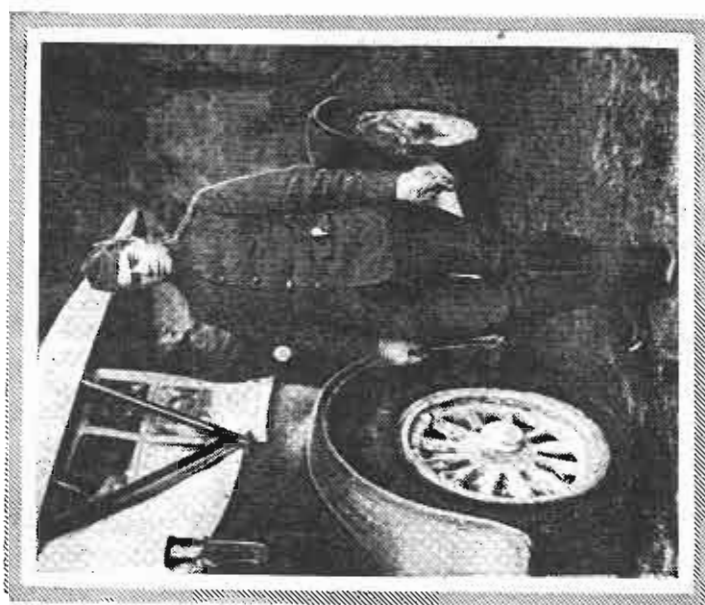
Rain. Simpkins & I went to Bar-le Duc to get my uniform but it was not finished. Had lunch. The French Corps Commander and our Brigade Commanders were here for lunch.

19 Sept Thurs

Rain. Cooper came back from the hospital and went to the Corps. We had two raids last night and took 15 prisoners.



Colonel Alfonse, sitting in a tank trap that didn't catch any tanks, one of the commanders of the column which made the record dash from the northwest to Vignuelles, which cut off the German exit from the St. Mihiel salient. Colonel Alfonse's complaint up to the time of the St. Mihiel drive was that he had never personally "captured his Hun." He ought to be satisfied now, for on the morning of Friday the Thirteenth he captured a machine-gun battalion, a wagon train, a fully equipped German band, and a rolling kitchen. "Personally," he it said, for the surrendering was in response to his automatic pistol. It also might be recorded that the automatic happened to be empty, as he had used up his clip in a lively little affair back in the woods.



When Colonel Alfonse entered Vignuelles at 2.30 A.M., together with his chauffeur, Sergeant Tozer, and two officers, he found the Huns ready to surrender when he bluffed them, and the inhabitants ready to welcome him with his empty pistol. The Huns were easily disposed of under a show of nerve, but the inhabitants overwhelmed the party as they poured up from the bowels of the earth to express the pent-up emotions of four years of captivity. Colonel Alfonse boasts that he retreated from this attack in a most masterly manner, leaving Sergeant Tozer to bear the brunt alone. One French woman, seizing the sergeant, declared, "I have been waiting for you for four years." Others bore equally tender messages to him.

20 Sept Fri

Rain & cold. Hiatt & I took Mr. Kirtland and Brown of Leslies Weekly and Boston Times to St Mihiel, Montsec, Apremont & Richecourt. They took many pictures. Saw some of the 1st Div.

21 Sept Sat

Cold & overcast. Went to the 1st Inf. Had a long visit with Dal & Hunt who is now in command of the regiment. They are moving tonight by truck to near Souilly. Had 2 letters from Jo, 2 from Mother & 1 from Jim.

22 Sept Sun

Rain. Evans left for U.S. 102nd Inf raided Bosche & got 13 prisoners.

23 Sept Mon

Overcast & cold. Our G.C.M. tried a Lieut for disobedience of orders and cowardice. Captain Smith left for U.S.

24 Sept Tues

Overcast. Received order to proceed to U.S. General wrote letters to get it changed. G.C.M. tried a private for killing a German. Received word concerning the attack to be pulled off in the Argonne & Champagne. Wrote plan of liaison for our attack on Riaville & Marcheville.

25 Sept Wed

Went to Souilly to get wire and batteries for the attack. Have a horrid cold. Maj Sawyer arrived to relieve me.

26 Sept Thurs

Fine day. The Art preparations began at 23:30. The Inf attacked at 5:30. Very heavy resistance in Riaville and Marcheville. Troops took both places but were driven out of Riaville. Losses pretty heavy. Lt Ross S.O.102 killed.

27 Sept Fri

Overcast. Went to Neufchateau, Houdelaincourt & Bar-le-Duc. Gen. has a telegram to hold me until my relief arrives. The attack went very well yesterday and the advance was an average of 7 miles. Many prisoners.

28 Sept

Rain. Worked on plan of liaison.

29 Sept

Rain Sun. Went to Benoitevaux, Souilly and Bernecourt to see Dal. Had lunch with him and Hunt. Packed up and went to Bar-le-Duc on my way to the U.S.

30 Sept

Cabled Jo. Capt Simpkins came in and he & I had dinner at the hotel with Mr Brown of the Washington Post.

Oct 1st

Overcast. Tailor from Paris arrived at noon with my uniform. Left at 11 PM for Paris.

2 Oct Wed

Arrived in Paris at 7:30 AM. Took a taxi to the Montparnasse station and had to wait until 8 PM for a train so had a look at Paris. On the train to Brest was an old gentleman and his daughter who spoke some English. They were very agreeable.

3 Oct

Arrived Brest 9 AM & reported at the casual camp. Was given a bunk in a barrack and as there was an Officers Mess everything was fine.

Oct 4 & 5

Loafed around Brest looking in the shop windows & changing French money into U.S. The sailing list was received & I was on it. Got to the transport about midnight. Sect of War, Mr Baker & Mr Ryan, aviation head were on the boat.

6 Oct

Sea sick. Not rough at all.

7 & 8 Oct

Usual inactivity. Sec Baker & Mr Ryan gave us a short talk.

9 & 10

Rough & cold.

11

Smooth, overcast. Irene Franklin gave us an entertainment. Had a fine dinner in Honor of Mr Ryan's birthday.

12 Oct Sat

Overcast. Everyone is feeling good for we expect to get in about 1 AM tonight. Passed 5 ships going out.

Sun Oct 13

So foggy we were anchored in the Lower Bay until 9:30. Quite a welcome sight to see N.Y. looming up out of the fog. Chaplin Axton met me at the dock and I had lunch with them. Wired the C.S.O. Also Gen Shanks asking him to get me to his Division at Kearney.

Oct 14th, 15 & 16th

Waited for an order telling me where to go. Had a wire telling me what stations were empty and I ask for Deming N.M.

Oct 17 - 18th

Waited for traveling orders.

Oct 19

Received order to proceed to Washington. Arrived about 4 PM and went to the Chief Sig Office. Was told that I could have Deming and as there were no accomodations in town I got out on the midnight train to Cincinnati.

Oct 20 - 21 - 22 & 23

Enroute. Reported to the C.O. at Deming and found the camp in quarantine.
Left at 8 PM for L.A.

Oct 24

9 PM arrived in L.A. Jo, Sam, G, Arthur & Tillie with the children met me.

EXTRACT FROM "Pictorial History of the 26th Division
United States Army " A.E. George & Capt E.H. Cooper
Published by Ball Publishing Company, Boston 1920

Chaplains Rollins and O'Connor spoke up and said, "We are going to have church and baptismal ceremonies Sunday." We got together on the scheme and laid the program for the next Sunday, erected an altar on a big truck, massed the division in the Place Jeanne D'Arc and this picture made quite a hit in "Pershing's Crusaders."

One little incident stands out in the baptismal ceremonies which was interesting at the time. The font consisted of three guns crossed with a mess kit to hold the water; as there were a number of boys to be baptized they had a reserve supply of water under the truck in mess kits. The chaplain called for more water and they found that two dogs had drunk the entire contents, necessitating a break in the ceremonies until more water could be secured. A French captain made himself guard over the water and was kept busy using his cane on the canine pests.

We were sent out in the field with absolutely no instructions and had to use our own judgment as to what to photograph; in fact, the men in charge did not know. I suggested to them that some one should go and see how the British and French photographic sections were being conducted and perhaps gain a little knowledge. Captain Miller had this idea in mind when he was relieved, and I think, had they taken this advice we should have been saved a lot of unnecessary work and have secured better results.

We were under the Signal Corps; my commanding officer was Major (now Lieutenant-Colonel) Alfonte, one of the fairest, squarest and finest men I have ever met. He gave me all the assistance in his power. I was very lucky in being under the colonel in this respect as I am sorry to say that the army as a whole was slow to grasp the significance of photographic work, and many discouraging incidents arose. The average officer scoffed at the idea and had no thought of anything but his own particular job, but now after it is all over, they wish they had had pictures of certain places: for instance, where the Boche had held us up or some other thing that happened, and several have told me, "I wish that you had gotten such and such a picture." I came back with the answer, "Had you given me the information at the time I would have had it."

To get information was the hardest thing — every one was afraid to talk; afraid the Boche would find out, and I had to sneak around getting what news I could from the subordinates in the office. It was very apparent when anything big was coming off; the entire story was written on the faces of the higher officers. They were so busy they had no time for any one and when the barometer showed this way it was up to me to get the news as best I could and be there at the time the thing happened. Naturally I was not always successful in guessing the right time and place and many good things were lost.

Up to this time I had not had the pleasure of personally meeting our commanding general, but on the next Saturday afternoon I was to photograph the review of the 104th Infantry. The troops were lined up on the field awaiting the arrival of the general. Presently over the brow of the hill appeared a horseman and in his wake was his staff. The man leading was General Edwards. He rode over, saluted Colonel Shelton and his staff. I was standing with my two

boys about thirty paces away. The general saw me, rode directly over, and oh, such a temptation to turn the crank, but fortunately I could resist and kept at attention. He came within a few feet of where I was standing, we saluted, he wheeled around and rode back to his place.

For the next two or three days we were very busy preparing to go to the front. I was given orders to proceed over the road with my Ford ambulance and detachment. The route prescribed was through Joinville, Vitry, Chalons, Epernay, Château Thierry, Soissons, to Coveurelles. We started early in the morning in a downpour of rain, and reached Vitry that evening. The next morning, still raining, we again started out, but all day were troubled with our tires, picking up hobnails shed from the shoes of the soldiers along the road. We met Colonel Logan on the road and dined with him at Château Thierry. That evening, after we had left Soissons, we noticed a big Cadillac car along side the road, and in the dust could see two figures walking on ahead. I had the car stop abreast. It was the general and his aide, Captain Nat Simpkins. After introducing myself, I asked him if I could help in any way, thinking his car had been disabled. He grasped my hand, saying, "Glad to have you with us, Lieutenant." They had only been waiting to fill their gasoline tank, and presently his car passed us.

We reached the headquarters at Couvrelles which was in a wonderful château shortly after the general. Colonel Alfonte and Captain Wolcott had arrived ahead of the general to get the place ready and that night before a wonderful fireplace in an old oak-paneled dining hall which had been the scene of royalty, I had the pleasure of being alone with the general. He told me some very interesting incidents of his service in the Philippines. In the course of the conversation I made plain to him what my position was and how photographs were to be used; also the trouble I had experienced in getting information. I further mentioned the fact that the pictures I had made of the 1st Division in the trenches had been sent broadcast over the world to combat the German argument that we were not ready to fight. The general could see the value of propaganda and from that time he helped me in every way he could.

The Chemin-des-Dames sector from a picturesque standpoint was the best sector I have ever been in. The plateau which had been captured from the Boche the previous October was one vast expanse of plowed-up, pock-marked ground and if any one ever doubts the accuracy of the French artillery fire one look at this plateau will convince them of its efficacy.

Every morning we would get out our little flivver, go as far as we could, which was to Hamarait Farms, the Post Command of the 102d Infantry. Here one entered the communicating trench which wound across the plateau. The Boche had wonderful observation in this sector and we were often shelled on our journey across. One day I happened to be in advance of the boys and was seated at a runner's post awaiting them. Presently I saw something coming over through the communicating trench sending out rays of light like a heliograph and before they had walked a hundred yards a shell broke very close to the trench. It was Sergeants Eikleberry and Painter coming out to meet me. The object which drew

'TAKE VIGNEULLES' 3 OFFICERS TOOK IT

Majors and Captain Preceding Regiment Subdue Hun Garrison.

PRISONERS SERVE COFFEE

BY HERBERT COREY.

WITH THE FIRST AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, October 12.—Black night, rain overhead and mud underfoot. Three American officers and a chauffeur drive into Vigneulles. They find a German machine gun company asleep. No sentries out, no patrols on the street. Only under the stone porch of an old church flicker the embers of a little fire. Around it lie half a dozen German soldiers. Maj. Alfons prods them with the toe of his boot and Maj. Bearss picks up a German rifle and Capt. Oberlin stirs the fire so that a tiny flame perks up, and great moving shadows jerk into the empty street.

"Get up," said Bearss. "What are you doing here?"

And the German soldiers get up submissively and stand there, sheep-eyed and downcast. Not one of them even dreams of resistance. When Bearss repeats his question one of them falters out:

"Pardon, Herr Colonel, we did not know this is American territory."

Tale Is Bizarre, But True.

In all the war there has been no such story as that of the race of two American divisions for Vigneulles and of what happened when the town was taken. The tale is bizarre and improbable, but true. It could not have happened except for the amazing speed with which the Americans went at their job of reducing the St. Mihiel salient. Nor could it have happened if the hearts of the German soldiers had been stout and courageous. Even a little less speed and a little more courage would have spoiled the story.

The American plan of reducing the triangular St. Mihiel salient was, as is every plan of reducing any salient, to nip the triangle at the base. Two American divisions were to be sent racing toward each other from the two ends of the base. The point of juncture was to be the town of Vigneulles. Once an American line crossed the drive from Vigneulles to the main square of the little old town, the German line would be cut off from the rear. The town of Vigneulles was the key to the salient. It was the only town in the salient which was not a part of the German line. It was the only town in the salient which was not a part of the German line. It was the only town in the salient which was not a part of the German line.

One was a division which won brackets at Cantigny and again on the Marne—but never mind it, because it lost. The other is a division made up of lumbermen and deep-sea fishermen and New England farmers. Its commanding general is a tall, gray-haired man who was born at Springfield, Ohio. He is the sort of a man one thinks of as a cavalry leader. He worships speed and adores hurry. He called up the present chief of a regiment of men from Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Orders Are Imperative.

"Take Vigneulles," he ordered spare not an ounce of energy or blood. Go!"

Maj. Bearss was that chief. He had to be in the Marne Corps, and he was soaked in the traditions of that fighting outfit. He has true quarter-deck sterner. There is nothing he likes better than to "pomp right through," raising hell all the way. He started that regiment of his from scratch at 5 o'clock on the night of September 12. They had nine kilometers to go, through the Forest of Montagne. Half that forest is sweet and clear, for it has been hand-tended and patrolled by the German soldiers who have lived in it for four years. The other half is a tangled mass of barbed wire, through which undergrowth has grown. Machine gun nests are spotted through it. Trees have been uprooted by shell fire and wire has been laced through their dead branches. Men could not have climbed through that ground in forty-eight hours, not to speak of fighting their way through. But splitting the very middle of the Forest of Montagne is a fine, straight hard-bottomed road, all the way from Ruft to Vigneulles.

"We go down that road," ordered Bearss. "Empty your magazines and let 'em fly. Don't make a noise. If we meet Germans, stick 'em."

They pelted down that road hell-leather under the driving rain. The men had crawled out and cut the wire that had barred the road to the major's auto and their own feet. Bearss had with him in his car Capt. Oberlin, his personal aid, and his chauffeur. He led the way. Behind him the men hiked furiously, helmets off, the rain could cool their heads, sweating and swearing and humming little jaunty songs under their breath. This was reported by Maj. Alfons of the major general's staff, who had secured the consent of that lively gentleman to be a part of the race. He had never seen men hike so fast.

Racing in the Rear.

In the rear they were running to keep up with the long-legged racers in front," said he.

Alfons caught Bearss' car at last. Ahead the road was lighted with exploding shells. Never had American artillery practice been more accurate. The boche dived into their concreted dugouts on either side of the road and waited for the storm to pass. The New England racing men galloped past them. On their way they picked up 202 prisoners who had come to look at the night. Not many were left. Those that did try, in accordance with Maj. Bearss' orders, "stuck" without noise. The column and Bearss' car came to the open from which in daylight Vigneulles might be seen.

"Go," said Bearss.

The car crept down the winding road with a hill on one side and a ditch on the other. The regiment followed out of hearing. The officers and the chauffeur drove the main square of the little old town. There was not a sound.

The spatter of falling rain. Then their car went on foot. Capt. Oberlin heard the wheels in the darkness. A German train was rolling into the town. The German line was cut off from the rear. The town of Vigneulles was the key to the salient. It was the only town in the salient which was not a part of the German line. It was the only town in the salient which was not a part of the German line. It was the only town in the salient which was not a part of the German line.

Look German's Rifle.

Along the wagon line, firing in the air, shouting at the top of their lungs. They got off their wagons and marched forward. For a moment they had been taken for German troops. At the street corner they waited for them. Around them Bearss took charge. He had armed himself with the first German rifle, for he had not even a knife by way of arms.

"Line up!" he snapped. "Attention!" The men formed in solid ranks in the street at night. They told him a machine gun company was quartered in the town. Bearss started to find out. With his officers and his chauffeur the Germans followed behind.

he ordered the men he had asleep in the church porch, to shelter from the rain. "Cook some food. More Americans will be here."

He did very happily. It seems to have entered the mind of any man even to try to resist. Perhaps in confusion they did not realize

how few their captors were. When the men of Connecticut and Rhode Island raced into town, panting, dripping with sweat, guns sloped for a fight, they found their major steaming before a fire on which pots of German coffee substitute and kettles of excellent German soup were boiling. The machine gunners had turned themselves into kettlers. They waited busily upon the Americans. The latter watched them curiously. It is difficult for the American to understand a man who gives up without a fight.

No Need for Battle.

No use bothering with the list of lost. There were ten automobiles and a caisson train and many wagons and a moving picture machine and twenty-four machine guns and a post office full of mail and other sundries. Other villages nearby were visited and a total of 800 prisoners were picked up. At daylight the support regiment, most of whose men got their mail in Boston when they were at home, got into town. The race had been won. The other division had not been heard from. It was not heard from until some hours later, when a line of its skirmishers entered Vigneulles, guns at the ready. Back in the plain the other division's artillery was fogging into position. Vigneulles was to be bombarded if the enemy fought back. But the enemy was at work over the coffee fires.

There has been no more daring raid in any war than this. The Americans knew nothing of the enemy strength or the enemy preparation, though they did not know that his positions were magnificently strong. A little less speed might have cost heavily. An alert and determined enemy might have cut them down in heaps on that arrow-straight road through the Forest of Montagne. It does not impair the quality of the courage shown that the Americans did not know that the enemy was neither alert nor determined. It was an operation that might never succeed again; for its very essence was reckless daring.

"How about my flanks?" Bearss asked the general before he started. "They will be unprotected."

"Never mind your flanks," was the reply. "God and I will take care of your flanks."

France 15 Sept 1918:

My Darling: Well I suppose you have seen in the papers the last couple of days of the American offensive on the St Mihiel salient. It was quite a success and our losses were very small. We were in it tooth and toe nail and as you say I never tell you anything I will just tell you about this from my own standpoint. We attacked on the west side of the salient on high wooded ground. The attack went very well and I was out in the forenoon and again in the afternoon to Rubberneck. Incidentally to see about extending my telephone lines as the attack progressed. At 7:30 the Gen received orders to push with all energy to a certain place and he gave instructions to this effect and about 8:30 at dinner he was worrying for fear the necessity for urgency might not be understood - that was my chance - so I suggested that it might be well if I joined the advancing unit and he told me to do it. Went as far as practicable in the car and then walked. Took the driver with me for the road was long and I was afraid. At 12:20 we caught up with the Col and I told him the situation and away we went. The sky had been aglo for hours with the light from burning towns and dumps that the Germans had set on fire and when we came to the edge of the hills overlooking the valley the sight was wonderful even though we realized that many people were being made homeless with it all. Fires in every direction up and down the valley. I thought of the burning of Rome -- There is a Bosch avion over head right now and the skunk may drop a bomb anytime. This evening they fired machine guns on the town and at troops on the road -- We pushed on to the town we were after which was all on fire and when we reached the edge of it the Col ordered the adjutant to make certain dispositions of the companies and I started out to look for a building that was not burned up for the Col's headquarters. He joined me also his operations officer and my driver making 4 of us. We went up to the main street and low and behold just as I stepped into the street here comes a column of soldiers and wagons. It took a couple of seconds for me to realize that they were Germans and I guess the others did not think quite so quick for I beat them to my gun and yelled Halt. Capt Overton speaks German so he yelled Hands up and believe me you never saw such a surprised bunch they extended down one block and around the next street so the tail end of the column did not know what was going on but they got their hands up. Meantime as soon as I saw they were flabergasted I sent my driver to get help and in a few minutes we had all kinds of soldiers. There were 2 rolling kitchens several wagons, a band, some machine guns and I do not know the exact number of men but I would say 150 to 200. Then we started to look through the good buildings I mean the ones that were not burned and pulled out 50 or 60 who were sleeping soundly. We sent patrols out the various roads and the rest of the night and morning prisoners were coming in until when I left to come back at

9:40 we had 730 and large quantities of material including machine guns & 4 cannons. I don't suppose I have ever been more tired than when I got home started back at 9:40 and it was 2:30 when I reached the machine. I had had no sleep or rest and had done a pretty good day's walking before starting on this trip. There were several French women in the town and they came from their hiding places. It was certainly pathetic. They were so glad they were almost weeping. The first old woman that showed up threw her arms around my drivers neck and hugged and kissed him for a minute talking all the time. All the able bodied men had been taken away. Most of the women had babies with German fathers said they had to sleep with them whenever they wanted them. I have picked up some wonderfully camouflaged helmets the last few days and am going to send the most brilliantly colored one to Helen N. Must also write to her for I think I can make an interesting letter for her now. Had two letters from you today and they were both fine about twice as much as you usually write. In one you had seen Dade on the screen and I am glad and do you know it made me weak in the eyes - you were weak in the knees - when I read your letter. Did the babes know me. Do they announce who the pictures are when they are shown or just such a General and staff. Mother wrote that a girl who was in high school with me saw them in Indianapolis and phoned her about them but she and Papa could not get down to see them. Dal was in the attack but he was on the other side so I did not get to see him. I am some distance from him but hope to see him soon. I would like to see the home papers about this fight for they should be quite enthusiastic this division took 2300 prisoners. Yes Col Russell E Hand was the one we knew at Douglas. He was in the old regiment when he was wounded. Now I can not sit up all night writing to you so kiss me quick and let me go. I have not gotten Helens picture yet. Loads of love and bear hugs. XOXOXO

/s/William A. Alfonte
Lieut Col NG

Good morning you sweet thing. We have been having beautiful weather for the past three days since the fight is over but before it had been raining for two weeks. You are getting quite a bank account and I will know where to come when I want to borrow enough for a night out with the ladies. Well I must get to work. XO

HEADQUARTERS 26th DIVISION
American Expeditionary Force

France, September 15, 1918.

GENERAL ORDERS
No. 77

1. The following letter is published for the information of all those concerned:

RUPT-en-WOEVRE,
September 13, 1918.

Sir:

Your gallant 26th American Division has just set us free. Since September 1914, the Barbarians have held the Heights of the Meuse, have foully murdered three hostages from MOUILLY, have shelled RUPT and, on July 23, 1915, forced its inhabitants to scatter to the four corners of France.

I, who remain at my little listening post upon the advice of my Bishop, feel certain, Sir, that I do but speak for Monseigneur Ginisty, Lord Bishop of VERDUN, my parishioners of RUPT, MOUILLY, and GENICOURT, and the people of this vicinity in conveying to you and your associates the heartfelt and unforgettable gratitude of all.

Several of your comrades lie at rest in our truly Christian and French soil.

Their ashes shall be cared for as if they were our own. We shall cover their graves with flowers and shall kneel by them as their own families would do, with a prayer to God to reward with eternal glory these heroes fallen on the field of honor, and to bless the 26th Division and generous America.

Be pleased, Sir, to accept the expression of my profound respect.

A. LECLERC
Cure of RUPT-en-WOEVRE.

By command of Major General EDWARDS:

DUNCAN K. MAJOR, Jr.,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL

C. H. STEVENS,
Adjutant General,
ADJUTANT.

HEADQUARTERS 26th DIVISION
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

General Orders)
No. 79)

September 18, 1918.

I. The following telegrams from the President of the United States, the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies, and the Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, are published to the command:

Washington, September 14, 1918.

General John J. Pershing,
American Expeditionary Forces, France.

Accept my warmest congratulations on the brilliant achievements of the Army under your command. The boys have done what we expected of them and done it in the way we most admire. We are deeply proud of them and of their chief. Please convey to all concerned my grateful and affectionate thanks.

(Signed) WOODROW WILSON.

September 14, 1918.

Commanding General,
First Army.

My dear General,

The First American Army under your command on this first day has won a magnificent victory by a manoeuvre as skilfully prepared as it was valiently executed. I extend to you as well as to the officers and to the troops under your command my warmest compliments.

(Signed) MARSHAL FOCH.

September 15, 1918.

Commanding General,
Fifth Corps.

Please extend to the officers and men of the Fifth Corps my sincere congratulations for the part they have taken in the first battle of the American Army. Our successes have thrilled our countrymen and evoked the enthusiasm of all Allies. Will you convey to the command my cordial appreciation of their work. I am proud of the accomplishment.

(Signed) PERSHING.

By command of Major General Edwards:

OFFICIAL:

DUNCAN K. MAJOR, Jr.,
Chief of Staff.

C. A. STEVENS
Adjutant General,
Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS 26th DIVISION
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

France, Sept. 28, 1918.

GENERAL ORDERS
No. 82.

To the 26th DIVISION:

1. Again it becomes my duty and pleasure to congratulate this division on the important part it played in the battle of the St. Mihiel Salient, September 12 - 14, 1918.

Our task was to attack on the historic and hitherto impregnable ground near Les Eparges where in the past so many thousands of French lives have been sacrificed.

In front of us the fortifications were manned by Germans, with a No Man's Land on difficult slopes, churned and pitted by four years of shelling and with a mass of wire and other obstacles from trench to trench.

The three infantry regiments in line, the 101st, the 103rd, and the 104th, with the brigade machine gun units, met a determined resistance. The enemy machine gun fire was intense. The artillery, without daylight registration, did well, during that part of the night allowed for preparation, in cutting breaches through this mass of wire, which were completed by the infantry before and during the attack.

The determined and effective methods of the infantry in the attack on the machine gun nests, the deliberate locating of these nests, and the subsequent infiltration processes used in overcoming these nests; the bold dashes wherever opportunity offered, in one case resulting in the 2nd Battalion of the 103rd Infantry rushing and capturing a hostile battalion of greater strength, before the enemy could raise his head; the fine liaison and co-operation of the artillery; the expedition with which follow-up roads were constructed by the engineers; the enterprise of the medical, supply, and other auxiliary units - all combined to prove that its wide service and experience have made this a veteran division.

I was pleased with all elements of the division.

2. By dark on the 12th the principle resistance of the enemy had been overcome. Then came the order to close the gap between our forces on the north and our troops advancing from the south in order to prevent the escape of the enemy from St. Mihiel. Our mission then was to reach Vigneulles before daylight and there establish contact with troops of our Fourth Corps.

3. The 102nd Infantry, in the division reserve, which had followed the advance closely throughout the battle in readiness for any such emergency, was ordered to spare neither energy nor blood to accomplish this mission. The whole division was pushed forward through the night, the rest of the 51st Infantry Brigade following the dash of the 102nd Infantry, and the 52nd Infantry Brigade moving out on the left rear of the 102nd Infantry, with the towns on the plain to the northwest of Hattonchatel, to include St. Maurice, as objectives.

In less than one half hour after receipt of this order the 102nd Infantry and the 102nd Machine Gun Battalion were on the march, led and inspired by the regimental and battalion commanders in person. They marched over nine kilometers on the only existing road, through a dense forest, in an unknown and hostile country infested with the enemy, losing for the time being liaison both to the right and left. The leading elements, passing through Hattonchatel, reached Vigneulles before two o'clock in the morning, took complete possession

(OVER)

of these two towns, by three o'clock, and pushing out occupied Creue and Heudicourt and blocked the roads leading from the southwest, while sending patrols further into the plain to gain contact with the American forces coming from the south.

This advance force captured many prisoners, much ammunition, stores of all kind, and released many captive civilians from St. Mihiel that the enemy in his hasty retreat was forced by the 102nd Infantry to abandon.

With this advance force were the entire 102nd Infantry, 3 companies of the 102nd Machine Gun Battalion, and part of the 101st Machine Gun Battalion from the division reserve. This last part, abandoning its motors, marched 14 kilometers carrying its guns by hand the entire way.

By the morning the whole command had taken possession of all the towns in the sector of its advance, and was impatient to pursue the enemy across the Hindenburg Line.

4. The towns of ST. REMY, DOMMARTIN, THILLOT, ST. MAURICE, BILLY-sous-les-Cotes, VIEVILLE-sous-les-cotes, HATTONCHATEL, HANNONVILLE, VIGNEULLES, CREUE, HEUDICOURT, DEUXNOUDS, WADONVILLE, AVILLERS, and BUTGNEVILLE, as well as the entire length of the GRANDE TRANCHEE de CALONE, with a gain of 14 kilometers, belong to your arms.

The division captured about 2,400 prisoners, large stores of supplies and ammunition, horses, and motor transportation, and about 50 guns.

I am proud of you. You are a shock division.

C. R. Edwards

C. R. EDWARDS

Major General, Commanding.

To Be Submitted Thru Military Channels, to the Adjut
General, G. H. Q., A. E. F., March 31, June 30,
September 30 and December 31.

September 30

EFFICIENCY REPORT

(Required by G. O. 39, G. H. Q., A. E. F., 1918)

William A. Alfonte,

(Name.)

Lieut. Colonel, Field Artillery.

(Rank and Organization.)

41 years 4 months

(Age.)

Division Signal Officer, 26th Division.

(Duty During Period.)

Reported by:

C. R. Edwards.

(Name.)

Major General, Commanding 26th Division.

(Rank and Organization.)

INSTRUCTIONS

I. In recording your judgment take into consideration following points, but do not report on them separately:

- Attention to duty.
- Professional zeal.
- Intelligence and judgment shown in instructing, drilling and handling enlisted men.
- General bearing and military appearance.
- Willingness to co-operate energetically and loyally with his superiors, regardless of his personal view.
- His behavior in action.

II. Under the heading, "Remarks," it is most desirable that the reporting officer describe the character, special qualifications and method of performance of duty of the officer reported upon with such fullness as will give a true estimate of him, independent of the other parts of the report. It should be a concise statement of his opinion on the subjects of general fitness as a commissioned officer, his strong points and his limitations. This statement should be definite and to the point, and not perfunctory or evasive.

III. To be used in reporting on Majors, Lieutenant Colonels and Colonels only.

1. During the past three months his work has been of quality:

- Excellent
- ~~Very Good~~
- ~~Good~~
- ~~Satisfactory~~

2. Physical Condition:

- Strong and Active
- ~~Good~~
- ~~Fair~~

3. Has he shown peculiar fitness or marked ability for detail on the General Staff, or for duty in any particular Staff Department? Yes. Any of the G's or as chief of staff of a division.

4. Is this officer in your opinion fitted for duty with and to command troops? If not, in what capacity do you consider his services might be better utilized? Yes. He is just leaving for U.S. My application to put him with a regiment has been disapproved.

5. This officer speaks and translates:

- ~~Fluently~~
- ~~Well~~

6. Recommended for:

- ~~Reassignment to another duty~~
- Promotion Col. of Infantry
- ~~Reassignment to another duty~~

REMARKS:

This officer I have tried out in every way. His forte is command of an infantry regiment. He is a strong combat leader. I would be glad to have him in command of an infantry regiment. He is too valuable to be kept as signal officer.

*I know no man
I would rather have
This Officer.*

C. R. E.

June 27, 1919.

Memorandum for citation of Lieutenant Colonel William A. Alfonsé,
Infantry, Division Signal Officer, 26th Division.

Lieut. Colonel William A. Alfonsé, Infantry,
(Signal Officer, 26th Division), voluntarily accompanied a raid-
ing party at Richcourt on the night of May 31, 1918, consisting
of a battalion of the 101st Infantry.

He displayed unusual initiative, bravery and sang-
roid, and personally tapped the enemy's wire communications, en-
abling the Division Commander to secure important intelligence.

During the St. Mihiel offensive, on the night of
September 12, 1918, he was one of the first to enter Vigneulles
ahead of the 102nd Infantry and aided in the capture of a wagon
train and a German machine gun battalion.

E. H. COOPER,
Captain, S.C.

eng

HEADQUARTERS
NORTHEASTERN DEPARTMENT
BOSTON, MASS.

July 12, 1919

My dear Alfons:

Thank you much, old man, for your characteristically kind letter. The only thing I know is just what Malick wrote; the citation for the Croix de Guerre was by Petain and intimates that Pershing has finally approved it, and there is every evidence that he edited it too. However, I haven't got it yet, nor the Legion d'Honneur, and I shall believe it when I do.

Confidentially, I assume that I will be a Brigadier again very shortly and that they will send some major general here as soon as my present popularity wanes a little bit as it is bound to do and I become an "old story". I don't know where they will send me. I suppose it is my duty to stick. I can tell you, however, that I would like to be in a position to see that all you fine fellows who stayed by me so loyally do not suffer for your allegiance. That is the only thing that makes me sore, when heretofore they have always won out. There may be a God in Israel that will visit this earth before I retire. I shan't give up, provided Mrs. Edwards can get strong again, if he don't come before I retire, but if he does come, then all you lads smile!

My love to Pendleton and yourself.

Faithfully yours,

C. R. Edwards

*Dictated but not prepared
in time for signature
Patrian*

IN REPLY
REFER TO

Colonel William A. Alfonte,
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

The General today has forwarded a recommendation for a Distinguished Service Medal for you, a copy of which is inclosed herewith.

I suppose they're so leery about giving us credit for anything that they have to be careful about giving us medals also. Up to date the only D.S.M's awarded in the Division are General Hale, Duncan K. Major and Colonels Bevans and Hume. However, the General hopes, and I take the liberty of joining him, that you will soon be in that select class named above.

Inclosure

John Herington
M.

November 17th 1922.

SUBJECT: Recommendation of Major William A. Alfonte, formerly Division Signal Officer, 26th Division, A.E.F., for the Distinguished Service Medal.

TO: The Adjutant General of the Army,
Washington, D.C.

1. I recommend that Major William A. Alfonte, formerly Division Signal Officer, 26th Division, A.E.F., be awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, with the following citation:

Major Alfonte, by his high professional skill, untiring effort, and unusual attention to duty, maintained the communications system within his Division at a high degree of efficiency. On May 30th 1918 he personally distinguished himself by entering No Mans Land in the enemy's wire, and endeavoring to cut into his communications system. This act was far above the call of duty and in total disregard of his own safety. During the Aisne-Marne offensive, on July 24th 1918, Major Alfonte again distinguished himself above the call of duty by voluntarily accompanying a battalion of the 28th Division in pursuit of the enemy, after his own Division had been relieved. On the night of Sept. 12th 1918, Major Alfonte again, with great gallantry and exceptional professional ability, voluntarily accompanied the 102nd Infantry in its night march through the woods along the Grand Tranchee de Colonne into Wienneulles, in order that he might personally supervise the establishment and maintenance of communication with Division Headquarters. His conduct was of exceptional value to the command and was distinguished by its unflagging devotion, exceptional initiative and extraordinary efficiency.

2. Major Alfonte repeatedly visited the foremost units of the Division and was of great assistance in maintaining the signal systems within the Division and was unmindful on all occasions to his own safety. His voluntary attempt to intercept the German messages on the night of May 30th was particularly noteworthy for its daring and for the spirit of self-sacrifice and devotion to duty that it revealed. Throughout his service with the Division his conduct revealed uppermost in his mind an unquenchable desire

-2-

to render the greatest possible service, and this desire was fulfilled by the high state of efficiency which he developed throughout the signal units of the Division.

C. R. Edwards,
Major General, U.S. Army.